Stammbaum

The Journal of German-Jewish Genealogical Research

Issue 14 Leo Baeck Institute, 129 East 73rd Street New York, NY 10021 December 1998

Genealogical Research in Germany

Peter W. Landé

The focus of this article is on research resources available in Germany, but, in fact, one should always begin at home, so let me begin there. Researchers around the world should visit local Mormon Family History Centers, which have the best collection of German/Jewish birth/marriage/ death records anywhere in the world. (The formal name is Church of Latter-day Saints.... or LDS; see separate article below.) For the background on how this unusual collection was developed and acquired, see my article in the Spring 1993 issue of *Avotaynu*. Once there, you should consult the "library" (in fact, film) catalog and search for "your" town by typing in Germany, then the name of the province where the town is located (if you know it), the name of the town and, finally, "Jewish records."

For those researchers able to visit New York City, I would strongly recommend a visit to the Leo Baeck Institute, with its large archival and library collections. Its index will soon be available on the Web. And you should look through back issues of **Stammbaum** to determine whether something has been written about areas/subjects of interest to you.

The second major resource available to you outside Germany is the Internet. You should start with JewishGen <http://www.jewishgen.org>, particularly its Family Finder and People Finder; the Web sites include instructions on how to use these tools.

Another resource is GerSIG, the new electronic mailing list discussion group for German-Jewish genealogical researchers. For information, visit <http://www.jewishgen.org/sigs/gersig>

For printed material, first look through the recently published *Library Resources for German-Jewish Genealogy* by Angelika Ellmann-Krüger, reviewed elsewhere in this issue. This book lists the principal libraries in Germany with major Judaica holdings and how at least some of their holdings can be searched from outside Germany. Once having identified publications of interest, consult major libraries in your country to see if the publications are available

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there. For Americans I recommend the Worldwide Web to examine the holdings of the New York Public Library <http://www.nypl.org> and the Library of Congress <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ catalog>.
You can, of course, break down this search by subject, e.g. name of town, or author. You will be amazed how many books have been written about your obscure family place of origin, often focusing on Jewish history, culture and cemeteries. To give a personal example, before he left Germany, my father had identified a book published in Frankfurt in 1905 in Hebrew detailing our family history back to the 14th century, but he had been unable to obtain a copy. I simply went to the Library of Congress and photocopied it there.

Having done your homework, and having identified the town(s) in which you are interested, and eliminated all the towns with similar or identical names, you are off to Germany. What can you expect to find?

Let's start, however, with what you will not find. Unlike Great Britain, you will not find country-wide birth, marriage and death records, and census records are either so restricted or useless for purposes of family research that they can be ignored. (The 1939 census of Jews is an exception but this is readily available at Family History Centers). The few national sources you may wish to utilize are discussed later. Accordingly, your research will take place primarily at the local, regional and state levels. What are the government entities and other organizations you should approach and what types of information can you expect to obtain from them? While it certainly is advantageous to be able to read and speak German, the more the better, do not be intimidated by your limited knowledge. Unlike the situation in most of Eastern Europe, it has been the experience of most non-German researchers, that with patience and good will, you will find English-speaking assistance. Do not abuse this hospitality by asking someone to translate a book for you, but feel free to request assistance in locating material in German, making copies and having it fully translated later at home.

Let's begin with the government sources you are likely to encounter. They differ in their operation

Stammbaum, Issue 14, December 1998

Publisher: Leo Baeck Institute, 129 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021. Subscriptions are $20/year domestic; $28 international. Make checks payable to "Leo Baeck Institute." Back issues $9, domestic, $11 international.

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from similar offices in the United States; they are not likely to be open weekends and evenings for your convenience. They may be open only a few days a week and even a few hours a day. This is difficult to predict and you will simply have to inquire after arrival.

Standesämter. These Government registry offices have been collecting birth, marriage and death records since 1874. These offices exist in every city (sometimes more than one for larger cities) and town, while one Standesamt may have jurisdiction over a number of smaller villages or localities. Obviously, they have much of the information you are seeking. Unfortunately, however, they may not be the easiest source of this information.

The reason for this is the dreaded word "Datenschutz," a word you should get to know. In essence, Datenschutz is Germany's version of our privacy laws, but in a much more restrictive context. As is the case in the United States, you may apply to obtain copies of birth, marriage and death records, but, unlike the United States, you will only be permitted to obtain copies with respect to direct ancestors, i.e. parents, grandparents, etc. Copies of such records for other relatives, such as uncles, cousins, etc. will not be provided. (There are some exceptions, e.g. for certain legal purposes, but these

are not likely to apply for most researchers. You may also get lucky and find an official who is sympathetic to your frustrated, bumbling needs, but don't count on this).

You will probably be required to fill out a form requesting the information, and to pay a small fee. In theory, your "application" should be notarized and your relationship to the person on whom you are seeking information confirmed, but, in practice, German officials tend to be lenient on these formalities for foreigners. You may ask how the officials can know that Jacob Levin was really your grandfather, and not your great-uncle. In fact, they cannot know this, but I would not recommend abusing this "opportunity" by requesting information on too many grandparents. Of course, you do not have to make a personal visit to the Standesamt to obtain these certificates. They can be requested by mail, and you should include two international postal reply coupons. Whether you visit the office personally or write, please remember that assisting genealogists is not the primary task of a Standesamt. They are busy offices and may not be able or willing to handle your inquiry immediately.

There is one exception to the general principle that you must approach the Standesamt at the place where the birth/marriage or death took place. This occurs in the case of records for those areas that are no longer part of Germany. The records dealing with territory yielded in the east (mostly Poland), to the extent that they have survived, are held in Standesamt I at Rueckerstrasse 9, 10119 Berlin. They are listed in a book, *Standesregister und Personenstandsbücher der Ostgebiete im Standesamt I in Berlin,* setting forth both locality and years covered. The procedures and restrictions that apply to access to these records are the same as those described above.

Einwohnermeldeaemter. Your second possible stop is the Einwohnermeldeamt, or residence registration office. The practice of registering one's residence with a government office has existed for roughly 100 years, and different registration lists for purposes of taxation, military service or other purposes go back much further. Again, in theory, this is a valuable source of information but, in practice, access to this information is more likely to be obtained indirectly, rather than through these offices themselves. The legal basis for access to these records varies somewhat state by state. Taking Hamburg as an example, five years after a registrant's death or departure from Hamburg, records are restricted for fifty years. After that date, the records are transferred to the relevant archives, where they can be consulted. Since you are likely to be conducting family research on periods prior to World War II, you can probably skip the visit to the Einwohnermeldeamt and go directly to the archives. If this does not succeed, you may wish to backtrack and see if older records are still held by the Einwohnermeldeamt.

Archives. While small villages are unlikely to have their own archives, most towns and regions as well as all states have archives to which public access is permitted. Even in the case of small villages, check with the town hall, mayor's office or whatever authority exists to see what records are available and where. An alphabetical list, by town, of the principal public and private archives in Germany is on pp. 531-581 of *Taschenbuch fuer Familiengeschichtsforschung,* the basic reference work on genealogical research in Germany. (Page references are taken from the 11th edition, 1995, but similar information is contained in earlier editions).

What can you expect to find and what kind of restrictions on access can you expect? Taking the second question first, you will be pleasantly surprised to find that access to material held by archives is far less restrictive than in the above mentioned offices, though, in practice, much will depend on the individual archivist you encounter. You may want to begin by examining archive catalogs with respect to holdings relating to Jews, material that is often separately catalogued. Do not expect that every archive will have the same types of material. For example, the Hamburg archive has the list of Jews who converted to the Lutheran church going as far back as the 17th century. (Such lists were "requested" of all religious communities by the Nazis but the Catholic church refused to prepare them.) However, in Berlin the equivalent material is held in the Lutheran historical archives rather than in the Berlin city archives. The extent of Jewish records held by any archive will vary widely. The Frankfurt

city archive, for example, holds Jewish community records going back for several hundred years, while other cities may not have such information.

One category of information you may wish to seek at archives on the state level is citizenship. Until 1934 each state had its own citizenship, and, of course, its own records for such citizenship. In the case of Hamburg, there are documents of Jewish immigrants from eastern Europe who settled in Hamburg, sometimes including birth certificates issued by rabbis in the country of emigration. You will certainly wish to see if the local archive (or library) has older Bürgerbücher or Adressbücher. The first of these often go back several hundred years and list those inhabitants who held citizenship (rare for Jews before the 19th century). A partial inventory of existing Bürgerbücher is given in pp.192-233 of *Familiengeschichtsforschung* (cited above). The Adressbücher, which usually begin in the 19th century, are more likely to be relevant and are equivalent to U. S. city directories. Again, a partial list is given on pp. 301-328 of *Familiengeschichtsforschung*.

There is one notable exception to the rule that one cannot tell what one will find in archives. This happy exception relates to the former DDR (East Germany) where *Quellen zur Geschichte der Juden in den Archiven der neuen Bundesländer [Sources for the History of Jews in the Archives of the new Federal States]* lists, archive by archive, all material relating to Jews. A great deal of material is available, going back several hundred years, and, where no material is available, even this is noted.

Libraries. In addition to local archives, you should also visit the central library (or university library) to see what they have of interest. In some cases they may be a good source for Bürgerbuecher or Adressbücher but, in addition, you should look for some of the literally thousands of books and articles which have been written on Jewish communities throughout Germany. Before you go to Germany you should look through *Library Resources of German-Jewish Genealogy* (see above) with respect to major libraries. You may also wish to consult *Auswahlbibliographie zur juedischen Familienforschung vom Anfang des 19. Jahrhunderts bis zur Gegenwart* [Selective Bibliography for Jewish Family Research from the Start of the 19th Century to the Present], which appeared in 1992. (It is hoped than an updated and expanded version will be published in the future.) This source lists material organized by subject, locality and the individual referred to. Many of the cited sources are difficult to locate in the United States but should be available in German libraries, particularly in the localities which are referenced. You may also wish to consult *Arbeitsinformationen*, which is published by the Cologne library's *Germania Judaica* every three years, the latest in 1998. It lists books, articles and other research projects that are underway. Again, the lists are broken down by subject and locality, and you can approach the authors with respect to their research, whether or not it has been published.

Cemeteries. Despite Nazi vandalism and the passage of time, there are still some 2,000 Jewish cemeteries, with 600,000 gravestones, in Germany. This does not include the many cemeteries and gravestones which no longer exist but are described in printed material. One estimate has it that about 120,000 of the gravestones have been photographed, 54,000 in Baden-Württemberg, 20,000 in Hamburg, 15,000 in Hesse, 10,000 in Lower Saxony, as well as scattered others. Unfortunately, there is no central listing of all cemeteries, though a partial list appeared in the December 1995 **Stammbaum** and additional information appears in this issue. *Stein und Name, der juedischen Friedhöfe in Ostdeutschland* lists all remaining Jewish cemeteries in what was East Germany.

Despite its name, the Zentralarchiv zur Erforschung der Geschichte der Juden in Deutschland, located in Heidelberg, concentrates on post-World War II material, though it has extensive files on Jewish cemeteries in southwestern Germany. It does not have the staff to handle written inquiries but a list of cemeteries on which it has information is available on its Web site <zentralarchiv@urz.uni-Heidelberg.de>. For a list of 3,000 German cemeteries, many no longer in existence, and about 15,000 names from 43 of these cemeteries, on the Internet see

<http://www.jewishgen.org/cemetery/names.htm>

Family History Centers Revisited

George Arnstein

Since the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS, or Mormons) established its rudimentary Family History Library in Salt Lake City in 1862, there have been many changes. Today there are some 2,000 affiliated Family History Centers world-wide and every one of them has a copy of the library catalog of the Library in Utah. Beyond that, their holdings vary greatly, but all of them have the capability of borrowing materials from the Library in Salt Lake City.

Much of the material now is computerized, accessible through CD-ROM, whose contents in turn can be downloaded onto your own diskette so you can take the data home, sort them out, and evaluate what you want to keep. Other material is on microfilm or microfiche, with a local catalog typically available to list the local holdings.

Family History Centers are open to the public, usually provide a video for orientation of visitors, and are staffed primarily by volunteers. I live near the Kensington, MD, Center, which is the largest center east of the Rocky Mountains. It has computers, which can be booked through advance reservations, provides access to the CD-ROM collection, and offers an opportunity to try out PAF, the relatively simple but competent genealogical software, which I have been using for many years. I admit for some of my printouts I use competing software, but that is another story.

Peter Landé, in his discussion of the 1939 Census of German Jews (Stammbaum Issue 13), mentioned that the Mormons have filmed it. After you look up the film number, it may have to be ordered and will come within a couple of weeks, provided you paid $3.25 plus postage for the three-week loan.

LDS has some ongoing projects which may be pertinent: Indices for all Civil War Soldiers, North and South; for Ellis Island data; and for the 1880 U.S. Census (which will be more complete than the existing index, confined as it is to households with children age 10 and up.)

The International Genealogical Index (IGI) used to exist only on microfiche with about 187 million names, which have been accumulated for more than a century, interrupted by World War II. Today, however, there is a 1993 CD-ROM main file with about 200 million names submitted between 1970 and 1993, plus about 24.5 million before 1970. An addendum in 1994 has to be consulted separately for an additional 40 million records.

And then there is the Ancestral File, based mostly on submissions from voluntary participants, now numbering close to 20 million names.

Also available is the Social Security Death Index, although researchers with access to the Internet may find that they can do the same search more easily from their own keyboard. <http://www.ssa.gov>

All of these sources require a bit of patience in order to make best use of them. Like most modern resources, they call for a search strategy – and a blank diskette instead of voluminous handwritten notes.

Genealogy Software: There are so many competing programs that I am not going to recommend a specific one, but there is no need to spend much money. PAF (DOS and Macintosh) is the largest selling genealogy program and has GEDCOM, which I consider essential because it means you can escape: You can transfer your data between many competing programs, provided they adhere to the GEDCOM standard. (Ask!, Verify, otherwise you have to re-enter all of your data.) PAF Version 3 is available from LDS in Salt Lake City for $15, complete; the separate PAF Companion Version 2 ($10) generates much better printouts.

Family Tree Maker is widely sold and Brothers Keeper is shareware, both for Windows, and there are many other programs that can be sampled free of charge by downloading from the Internet.

Travels, Archives, and Discoveries

Werner L. Frank

Many records of German Jewish genealogy are available in the United States so that an overseas trip is hardly necessary. Many data are available at major libraries, the Leo Baeck Institute in New York, and the facilities of the Mormon Family History Centers. A vast literature, primarily in recent German language offerings, documents the older history of Jews in specific German towns and cities, as well as the horrors commencing in these places with the advent of the Third Reich. And now, through modern computer technology and the Internet, even more opportunities exist for "armchair" research.

Nevertheless, there is always an opportunity for finding more obscure and specialized data by visiting primary archival institutions located in Germany. Here, then, are my July 1997 experiences, which should be of value to other researchers.

Zentralarchiv zur Erforschung der Geschichte der Juden in Deutchland in Heidelberg

This organization was formed in 1987 under the auspices of the Central Council of Jews in Germany. Funding is primarily by the German Federal Government. There are three main objectives:

- Collection of documents, periodicals and books with respect to German Jewish history, made available to researchers in a growing library
- Collection and cataloging of Jewish grave sites throughout Germany, including listings and photos of every tombstone for designated cemeteries
- On-going depository for cataloguing and storage of historically valuable documents produced by the current Jewish community in Germany

There are nearly 2,000 Jewish cemeteries and a total of around 600,000 graves within the borders of today's Germany. At this time, some 54,000 tombstones in Baden-Württemberg have been recorded plus another 5,000 from Lower Saxony. Individual books are then planned for selected cemeteries, wherein the graves are catalogued, showing the tombstone inscription in both Hebrew and German.

With respect to the third objective, this institution is now replicating the function of the former *Gesamtarchiv der deutschen Juden,* which operated in Berlin from 1905 until 1939.

Tombstone of Sara bat Meir, wife of Levi from Eppingen, died Sunday, 9 Cheschvan (26 Oct 1743)

I first became acquainted with the operation of this *Zentralarchiv* when I sought tombstone information for several cemeteries in southern Germany. I soon discovered that the *Zentralarchiv* was a high-tech operation with e-mail and a home page on the Internet. Within hours I was able to establish the names – but few actual contents – of the 75 currently available cemetery lists by Internet access to their

URL. By luck, information for two cemeteries of interest to me was already "download enabled." I obtained a detailed printout of the graves from the historic Oberöwisheim Jewish cemetery near Kraichtal. By subsequent e-mail request, I was also able to obtain a list of graves selected according to the town of origin of the deceased. This experience was mind boggling. I had heretofore known that many of my eighteenth century forebears from Eppingen in Baden were buried in Oberöwisheim. Now, I had all of these burials identified. It was left to me to discern, from the patronymics of those days, who belonged to whom. I found a fourth great-grandmother and several other relatives for whom data had not been available. I subsequently ordered high quality black and white photos of the gravestones themselves (DM10 each) as well as a detailed page describing the tombstone, with a complete German and Hebrew rendition of the inscription (DM.50 each). *An example is displayed with this article.*

The four-member staff of the *Zentralarchiv* has accomplished a lot under the leadership of Dr. Peter Honigmann. Official visiting hours are Monday through Thursday, 2 pm to 4 pm. Appointments can also be made in advance for other times in order to assure access due to the very limited space that is available to do research.

Baden-Württembergische Staatsarchive, Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart

This was my second visit to the Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart in order to pursue documentation related to my family that for centuries inhabited small towns in the former state of Baden. During my 1996 visit, I obtained a useful listing of available microfilms containing Jewish birth, death and marriage records for seventy communities (Bestand HF 158 RSA J.) The data primarily reflected events of the 19th century although a *Gemeindebuch* for Altdorf recorded information beginning in 1783 and a *Sterbefälle* document for Mannheim went back to 1638. In this collection, a number of localities give enumerations through the period 1940. I found very valuable data for my Herz family of Kochendorf, although some of the printed copies derived from the microfilm were illegible.

Now I returned once more to Stuttgart and was pleasantly surprised to learn that there was available a readable transcription of these records. The State of Baden-Württemberg underwrote a project to have the fifty-year-old, 126 individual microfilms reconstructed into legible documents. Thus, 60,000 entries from 600 registers are now accessible as a primary source of historic data. The reference for this information is J 386, *Zur Geschichte der Juden in Baden-Württemberg*.

The background for the existence of these registers is as follows. The Gestapo established the *Reichssippenamt*, located in Berlin, which sought to collect Jewish birth, death and marriage records as well as mohel books, cemetery records, and local Jewish community membership lists. This infamous task began in serious mode during the *Reichskristallnacht* of November 1938; it used as the assembly point the facilities of the *Gesamtarchivs der deutschen Juden*, creating a *Zentralstelle für jüdische Familienstandsregister im Altreich* (Central Office for Jewish Vital Family Records in the Altreich, [Nazi jargon for "old" Germany before it added Austria and enlarged its domain through various annexations].)

Fortunately, fear of destruction of these documents during World War II, due to the prevalence of heavy bombing, led the Gestapo to arrange for the company Gatermann Brothers in Duisburg to produce microfilm copies. With the disappearance of many of the original registers at the end of World War II, these films then became the only remnants of the original records.

The cover of the books held a legend that the content was not available for copy. Nevertheless I asked the man sitting at the control desk for approximately twenty pages from the Bretten registers, my mother's birthplace. He shrugged for a moment, and then made the copies while I was finishing my work, a most pleasant surprise and rewarding experience.

The reading room at the *Hauptstaatsarchiv* Stuttgart is open Monday noon to 5:00 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Thursday 8:30 am to 7:30 pm, and Friday 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. These schedules tend to change.

Most of the material, except for certain reference books, is in closed stacks. Requests, based on a catalog lookup, are fulfilled hourly with the last request due by 2:30 pm on all days except Thursday when requests are allowed until 3:30 pm. The *Archiv* is a short walk from the main railroad station. *Branches*: The State archives are also located at subsidiary places, including Ludwigsburg, Freiburg, Sigmaringen and Wertheim. I have not ventured to any of these repositories. A special location, emphasizing the records of Baden, is the *Generallandesarchiv* in Karlsruhe. Here I had equally good experiences in 1996, similar to Stuttgart, when I found valuable early 18th century original documents containing day by day official records of the various small towns. For example, I was led to a 1736 listing of all Jews of Eppingen, and thereby found my Forefather Levi, who had come to Eppingen in 1710 from Weinheim. The register provided his age so that I was able to establish his birth year as 1686. Listed with him where the names of his two unmarried sons, two unmarried daughters, a married son and daughter.

Jewish Museum in Frankfurt/Main

The Jewish Museum in Frankfurt/Main stores the archives of the late Dr. Rabbi Bernhard Brilling. I had made an appointment with Dr. Johannes Wachten, who is in charge of the archives. I was met with a good deal of friendliness and accommodation, allowing me to examine the large number of files that were readily available for perusal. These files, largely written by hand, were organized by surname. They contain family information and genealogical charts collected by Rabbi Brilling. The files are augmented by contributions from other researchers who must have collaborated with the Rabbi.

In particular, I reviewed the material associated with families Geismar and the rabbinical family Weil. For the latter, I found considerable material that augmented my own prior findings. I was allowed to make photocopies of those items that were of interest to me.

There is an index to the Brilling collection that is not available at the Museum itself. The actual documents are stored elsewhere and not available for immediate viewing. There seems to be no plan in place to organize the remaining documents for public access.

In addition to holding various archives and a substantial library, the Museum is mainly concerned with exhibiting the life of German Jewry, done with great taste and scope. There is also a convenient snack bar in the building and a very nice Museum Shop, including for sale a large number of books on topics related to German Jewry. The Jewish Museum is located within walking distance from the central railroad station.

Access and Addresses

Zentralarchiv, Bienenstr. 5, D-69117 Heidelberg
Telephone: 49 (0) 6221 164141
Fax: 49 (0) 6221 181049
E-mail: <Zentralarchiv@urz.uni-heidelberg.de>
URL: <http://www.uni-heidelberg.de/institute/sonst/aj/>

Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart, Konrad-Adenauer Strasse 4
D-70173 Stuttgart
Telephone: 49 (0) 711 212 4320 (reading room)
Fax: 49 (0) 711 212 4360
<http://www.lad-bw.de/archive.htm>

Generallandesarchiv Karlsruhe, Nördliche Hildapromenade 2, D-76133 Karlsruhe
Telephone: 49 (0) 721 926 2251 (reading room)
Fax: 49 (0) 721 926 2231

The archive and library resources of the State of Baden-Württemberg are accessible through the Internet: <http://www.lad-bw.de> (This site also has links to the Bavarian, German Federal, and Swiss Federal archives.)

Cemetery data for Baden-Wuerttemberg have been collected by the Landesdenkmalamt, D-70178 Stuttgart, Moerikestr. 12.

Telephone: 49 (0) 711 1694-9
Fax: 49 (0) 711 1694-513

Jüdisches Museum, Frankfurt/M, Untermainkai 14/15
60311 Frankfurt am Main
Telephone: 49 (0) 69 212 38806
Fax: 49 (0) 69 212 30705

Articles and news items for Issue 15 of **Stammbaum** are due by March 15, 1999.

Jewish Cemeteries in Baden and Wuerttemberg

George E. Arnstein

The end is near, not of the cemeteries, but of a project to inventory all 145 Jewish cemeteries in Baden-Wuerttemberg. Specifically here is where matters stood as of September 1998:

In Baden 78 cemeteries have been completed, six more are in progress, and seven remain to be inventoried. Specifically under way: Buchen-Boedigheim, Kippenheim-Schmieheim, Krautheim, Kuehlsheim, Lauda-Koenigshofen-Unteralbach, Ravenstein-Merchingen. Not yet scheduled are Bruchsal-Obergrombach where a special project seeks to salvage certain stones, Freiburg, Karlsruhe "liberal" cemetery, Kuppenheim, Mannheim main cemetery, and Waibstadt.

In Wuerttemberg, 48 have been completed, while five are currently in progress. They are: Dörzbach-Hohebach, Dörzbach-Laibach, Rottenburg-Baisingen, Schöntal-Berlichingen, and Weikersheim.

The project was authorized by the B-W state legislature in 1989 and was assigned to the B-W Landesdenkmalamt (LDA, Office for the Preservation of Historic Memorials), with much of the work entrusted at first to Barbara Doepp and Dr. Frowald Huettenmeister, and later to two specialists in Judaica: Michal Antman, and Monika Preuß. Work began in 1990, ran out of money in August 1993, then resumed in April 1994. LDA expenditures through April amounted to DM 3.4 million, or more than $2 million.

While other jurisdictions are working to preserve some Jewish cemeteries, B-W appears to be the only one where the State government has decided to inventory all within its jurisdiction.

A status report, here summarized, is on the JewishGen Web site. For genealogical purposes the documentation is highly useful, especially because the inventories also drew on archival material, including Jewish communal archives. It also honors the memory of ancestors and victims, and reflects favorably on the sponsoring agencies which often involve local communities, especially when it comes to publication (see list below.) Large as the effort is, it deals with conservation, not restoration, although stones which have fallen or been tipped over obviously have been re-erected or undergone simple repairs.

The Landesdenkmalamt (LDA) has no plans to publish these inventories in book form. Printouts are available in the Stuttgart and Karlsruhe LDA offices, at the Jewish communities in Karlsruhe and Stuttgart, the Zentralarchiv in Heidelberg, and in the relevant communities like the one I consulted in Bad Buchau. LDA has no plans to make the data, which exist in digital form, available either via diskette or to publish them on the Internet.

Sites Where Printouts Are Available

- LDA Moerikestr.12, D-70178 Stuttgart
  Phone 0711/1694-9
- LDA Durmersheimerstr. 55, D-76185 Karlsruhe
  Phone 0721 500 8-0
- Oberrat der Israeliten Badens, Knielinger Alle 11, D-76133 Karlsruhe
- Israelitische Religionsgemeinschaft Wuerttemberg, Hospitalstr. 36, D-70174 Stuttgart
- Zentralarchiv zur Erforschung der Geschichte der Juden in Deutschland, Bienenstr. 5, D-69117 Heidelberg

This is a delicate matter, because the LDA would like to see generous distribution of these data, collected with its financial support and sponsorship. Conversely several officials of the Jewish communities for Baden and Wuerttemberg have expressed concerns over possible vandalism or desecration and oppose digital publication. Given German sensitivities this concern is being respected. I was given access to the data but not in digital form.

Some communities have made their own decisions, and the LDA cooperates with them. Here are examples:

Bopfingen. The material has been published as a CD-ROM: *Bopfingen-Oberdorf, Synagoge und Friedhof.* (The contents probably reflect the work done by

LDA, which held a news conference there on 6 April 1998 with several dignitaries attending.)

Freudental. The former synagogue has been restored as a memorial, and the same sponsoring group now has produced a handsome book: Der juedische Friedhof in Freudental by Ludwig Benz, Haim Goren, and Situtunga Michal Antmann. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 1996. DM 110. Sponsor is the Paedagogisches Zentrum Ehemalige Synagoge Freudental, D-74392 Freudental.

Publications: Documentation of Jewish Cemeteries in Baden-Württemberg

Adler, Renate, Hüttenmeister, Gil et al., *In Stein gehauen Lebensspuren auf dem jüdischen Friedhof in Rexingen,* published by Stadtarchiv Horb, Stuttgart, 1997, Theiss Verlag ISBN 3-8062-1296-1. (See review, below)

Bamberger, Naftali Bar-Giora, *Die jüdischen Friedhöfe Jebenhausen und Göppingen*, Veröffentlichungen des Stadtarchivs Göppingen Band 24, 1990. Order from Stadt Göppingen, Stadtarchiv und Museen, Schloßstr. 14, D-73033 Göppingen

Bamberger, Naftali Bar-Giora, *Der jüdische Friedhof in Gailingen, Memor-Buch*, Gailingen 1994. Order from W. Gut, Rossbergstr. 15, CH-8002 Zurich, Switzerland. Sfr 98 +30 shipping.

Bez, Ludwig, et.al, *Der jüdische Friedhof in Freudental*, Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 1996, ISBN 3-17-014161-9

Bischoff, Ralf, Gotzman, Andreas et.al., "Der jüdische Friedhof in Eppingen," *Rund um den Ottilienberg* Bd. 5 Eppingen, 1989, order from 'Heimatfreunde Eppingen,' Eppinger Historischer Verein, Geranienstr. 19, D-75031 Eppingen

Hahn, Joachim. et al., *Hoppenlau-Friedhof, israelitischer Teil,* Friedhöfe in Stuttgart Bd. 2; Stuttgart: Stadtarchiv (Klett-Cotta) 1988; ISBN 3-608-91512-5

Hahn, Joachim, et al., *Pragfriedhof, Israelitischer Teil;* Friedhöfe in Stuttgart Band 3, Stuttgart: Stadtarchiv (Klett-Cotta) 1992, ISBN 3-608-61618-0

Hahn, Joachim, *Steigfriedhof in Bad Cannstatt, israelitischer Teil*, Friedhöfe in Stuttgart Bd. 4, Published by Archiv der Stadt Stuttgart Bd. 60, Stuttgart 1995, Klett-Cotta, ISBN 3-608-91638-5

Kohring, Heinrich, *Der jüdische Friedhof in Schwäbisch Hall Steinbach*, Published by Stadt Schwäbisch Hall, 1996; DM 49,80. ISBN 3-927374-16-4. From book stores or Stadtarchiv Schwäbisch Hall, Am Markt 5, D-74523 Schwäbisch Hall

Preuß, Monika, *Der jüdische Friedhof auf der Schanz in Pforzheim,* Published by Stadt Pforzheim 1994. ISBN: 3-9803529-2-7, order from book stores.

Schubsky, Karl W., *Jüdisches Leben in Crailsheim – der jüdische Friedhof*, published by Stadt Crailsheim, Veröffentlichungen zur Ortsgeschichte und Heimatkunde in Württembergisch Franken, Bd. 12, Crailsheim, 1996, ISBN: 3-87354-243-9

Szklanowski, Benno, *Der alte jüdische Friedhof am Klingenteich in Heidelberg* 1702-1876, Neue Hefte zur Stadtentwicklung und Stadtgeschichte, Heft 3 / 1984, Schriftenreihe, d.Stadt Heidelberg ISBN 3-921524-04-0.

More Cemetery Publications

The Salomon Ludwig Steinheim-Institut fuer deutsch-juedische Geschichte is affiliated with Duisburg University. The following is a list of its publications:

Berlin-Spandau: Michael Brocke with Birgit Klein, Gesine Palmer, Nathanja Hüttenmeister and Aubrey Pomerance: "Die mittelalterlichen jüdischen Grabmale in Spandau 1244-1474" [Medieval Jewish Tombstones in Spandau 1244-1474], in: *Ausgrabungen in Berlin* 9/94, S. 8-116

Brilon (NRW): Michael Brocke with Andreas Hemstege, Aubrey Pomerance and Regina Schorzmann: "Bild-Textdokumentation der Jüdischen Friedhöfe" [Pictorial Documentation of the Jewish Cemetery], in: Ursula Hesse (Hg.): *Jüdisches Leben in Alme, Altbüren, Brilon, Madfeld, Messinghausen, Rosenbeck, Thülen*, Brilon 1991, S. 316-375

Bonn: Michael Brocke, Dan Bondy, *Der alte Friedhof Bonn-Schwarzrheindorf* (in Druck) [The old Cemetery Bonn-Schwarzrheindorf (in press)].

Emmerich: Michael Brocke with Aubrey Pomerance: "Jüdische Begräbnisstätten in Emmerich. Eine bildlich-

textliche Dokumentation" [Jewish Burial Sites in Emmerich, a pictorial and textual documentation], in: M. Brocke, C. Pelzer und H. Schüürman (Hg.): *Juden in Emmerich*, Emmerich 1993, S. 397-546

Frankfurt a.M.: Michael Brocke with Robert Kaelter: *Geschichte der jüdischen Gemeinde zu Potsdam*, Reprint, Julius J. Schoeps, Berlin 1993, S. 145-176

Rheinland-Pfalz: *Ein edler Stein sei sein Baldachin. Jüdische Friedhöfe in Rheinland-Pfalz*, [May a jewel serve as its canopy; Jewish Cemeteries in Rheinland-Pfalz] Landesamt für Denkmalpflege Rheinland-Pfalz. Includes among other entries: Michael Brocke: "Die Inschriften des Friedhofs von Burg Rheineck – Bad Breisig (1621-1873)," [Inscriptions at the Cemetery of Burg Rheineck – Bad Breisig (1621-1873)] S. 173-210; Martina Strehlen & Dan Bondy: "Zur Geschichte der jüdischen Gemeinde in Bingen und ihres Friedhofes" [Regarding the History of the Jewish Community in Bingen, and its cemetery]. S. 109-147

Rietberg-Neuenkirchen: Michael Brocke and Martina Strehlen, „Der jüdische Friedhof in Rietberg-Neuenkirchen", [The Jewish Cemetery in Rietbert-Neuenkirchen] in: *Die Juden der Grafschaft Rietberg. Beiträge zur Synagogengemeinde Neuenkirchen*, Heimatverein Neuenkirchen und Stadt Rietberg, Eigenverlag der Stadt Rietberg, Kulturamt, Rietberg 1997, S. 107-277

Soest: Michael Brocke with Regina Schorzmann und Nathanja Hüttenmeister: *Der jüdische Friedhof in Soest* [The Jewish Cemetery in Soest] (and Gerhard Köhn: *Die jüdische Gemeinde Soest*) [The Soest Jewish Community], Soest 1993, S. 11-219

Solingen: Michael Brocke with Nathanja Hüttenmeister, Regina Schorzmann, Dan Bondy and Martina Gede: *Der jüdische Friedhof in Solingen. Eine Dokumentation in Wort und Bild*, [The Jewish Cemetery in Solingen, a documentation in words and pictures]. Solingen 1996, 231 Seiten

Weilerswist: Dan Bondy: "Die jüdischen Friedhöfe der heutigen Gemeinde Weilerswist (Weilerswist und Lommersum)," [The Jewish Cemeteries in what is today Weilerswist (Weilerswist and Lommersum)] in: *Vergangenheit Unvergessen - Schicksale jüdischer Familien in der gemeinde Weilerswist während der Naziherrschaft*, Friedensinitiative Weilerswist, Weilerswist 1988, S. 81-106

Weisweiler: *Friedhof Weisweiler - Jüdische Kultur in Deutschland einst und jetzt am Beispiel einer Landgemeinde im Rheinischen Grossraum*, [The Weisweiler Cemetery – Current and Former Jewish Culture in Germany, represented by a rural community in the Rhine Area] by Thomas Schröter et al. Düren 1995; darin [includes]: Michael Brocke with Nathanja Hüttenmeister: "Transkription, Übersetzung und Kommentierung der Funde" [Transcription, Translation and Commentary on the Discoveries], S. 30-57

Wesel: Michael Brocke with Andreas Hemstege, Barbara Pörsch and Regina Schorzmann: *Nur Gräber bleiben mir. Jüdische Friedhöfe in Wesel, Zeugnisse jüdischen Lebens* [Only Graves Remain: Jewish Cemeteries in Wesel, Testimony of Jewish Life] (Weseler Museumsschriften Bd. 19), Wesel 1988, 135 Seiten

Completed but Unpublished Projects

The following cemeteries have been documented – pictures and text – by various staff members.

Alpen, Arolsen (planned for publication), Beelitz, Geldern, Goch, Königswinter, Kraków/Polen, Kuchenheim, Lübeck-Moisling, Müncheberg, Obernkirchen, Oranienburg as well as the Düsseldorf district (detailed pictorial and partial textual documentation of almost all – more than 90 – Jewish cemeteries in this Regierungsbezirk.)

Current Projects

Berlin: Alter Friedhof Große Hamburger Straße (1672-1827); Unpublished master's thesis: Nathanja Hüttenmeister: *Zur Geschichter des alten jüdischen Friedhof Große Hamburger Straße in Berlin- Versuch einer Rekonstruktion* [On the History of the old Jewish Cemetery Grosse Hamburger Strasse in Berlin, an attempt at Reconstruction] In progress.

Berlin: Friedhof Schönhauser Allee, Begun 1997, Staff: Christiane E. Müller

Chemnitz: Documentation of the cemetery, start 1997, Staff: Dan Bondy.

Frankfurt am M.: Alter Friedhof Battonnstraße und andere Frankfurter Friedhöfe, bildlich-textliche Aufnahme von ca 5500 Grabsteinen und Fragmenten (13.-19. Jhd.); [Old Cemetery Battonnstrasse and other Frankfurt Cemeteries, pictorial and textual coverage of about 5500 tombstones and fragments, 13th -19th Cent.] Begin 1991, Staff: Dan Bondy, Andreas Hemstege, Heidrun Hermann,

Nathanja Hüttenmeister, Christiane E. Müller and Regina Schorzmann

Krefeld: Documentation of the four cemeteries. Publication of the documentation of the old cemetery, Spring 1999. Staff: Aubrey Pomerance

Siegburg: Documentation of cemetery. Start 1997. Staff: Dan Bondy, intended for publication

Steinheim Institut. Geibelstrasse 41, D-47057 Duisburg. Phone: 0203/7 27 00 72/72. Fax: 0203/7 37 33 80. E-mail: <institut@sti1.uni-duisburg.de>. Website:<http://st1.uni-duisburg.de/> (Comment: The web site also has helpful links to other relevant sites. -ga)

New Tools from Hesse

New sources of data have been announced by the Kommission fuer die Geschichte der Juden in Hessen, Mosbacher Str. 55, D-65187 Wiesbaden.

Quellen zur Geschichte der Juden im Hessischen Haupstaatsarchiv Wiesbaden 1806-1866, edited by Hartmut Heinemann. Wiesbaden, 1997, xii + 580 pp.

This sourcebook on the history of Jews in the main Hessian archive in Wiesbaden covers 19th century material concerning Jews in Hesse, practically speaking the former Herzogtum [Dukedom] of Nassau and the Landgrafschaft [County] Hessen-Homburg. Also included are Grossherzogtum Frankfurt and Wetzlar county, which was a Prussian enclave for a while.

The index is reported to be comprehensive because it also covers a variety of non-official documents such as testaments, personal financial statements, and legacies, all of which offer insights into Jewish daily life during the 19th century. Keep in mind that this is a source book, a guide; it does not include the documents themselves.

Cemeteries in Hesse have been inventoried, photographed and the inscriptions have been translated into German. The data for some 40 cemeteries with about 12,000 tombstones have been completed. The results are available in the offices of the *Kommission*, based on a project under way since 1983, partially funded by Land Hessen, and under the supervision of Frau Christa Wiesner. Recent completions are:

- Weyher cemetery is in the Rhoen area, in Ebersburg. The work has been completed and 611 tombstones reach back to 1720.
- Seulberg cemetery is in Stadt Friedrichsdorf, where burials from several communities in Hesse-Homburg were made. The inventory contains 200 tombstones going back to 1752.
- Oestrich, and Ungedanken (part of Fritzlar), have been completed, while three others in Fritzlar, Zueschen, Treis an der Lumda (in Stauffenberg) are to be completed in 1997.

Reichskristallnacht, Der Judenpogrom vom 7. Bis 10. November 1938 – Urheber, Taeter, Hintergruende has been edited by Wolf-Arno Kropat. Wiesbaden: Kommission, 1997. 282 pp. DM 35.

An earlier *Bibliographie zur Geschichte der Juden in Hessen*, was edited by Ulrich Eisenbach et al. Wiesbaden: Kommission... 1992. 355 pp. It follows today's Hesse boundaries, including Frankfurt, excluding newspaper sources. DM 39.

– Summarized by Karen Franklin

German Jewish Special Interest Group

(GerSIG)

GerSIG's purpose: to present and preserve genealogical information about the Jewish communities in German-speaking regions and to trace our ancestors and better understand the lives they led. Our coverage includes other German-speaking areas such as Austria, parts of Switzerland, Alsace, Lorraine, Bohemia and Moravia.

For more information, visit GerSIG on the Web: http://www.jewishgen.org/sigs/gersig

World War I German Cemeteries in France

Carole Davidson Baird

Max Wachsmann was only twenty years old when he died on the battlefield in St. Quentin, France, during the final days of World War I. His diary tells of his induction into Oppeln Infantry Regiment 63 on 4 Jan 1917 and is silent until his subsequent transport to Beverlov on 22 June.

After he transferred to the 4th Company Reserve on 12 August of that year, he resumes his entries with 17 August when he went into field hospital #69 in Anneles and then on 22 August into field hospital #33 in Thugny. (I can only assume he was wounded or had infected feet, the latter being more plausible because it was that condition which sent him home to Oppeln on 29 August 1917 [now Opole, Slansk, Poland].) It was not until 8 November that he was released back to the troops. Ironically, on 11 November he moved from Champagne to quarters in St. Martin where the war started in earnest for him. A year from that date the Armistice would be signed, but my great-uncle Max would not live to experience the defeat of his Fatherland, for he was shot through the chest at St. Quentin 24 Sep 1918, only weeks after returning to the Front from his parent's home.

The following is a list of the Jews buried in *Le Cimetiere Militaire Allemand de Saint-Quentin*, located outside the city center of St. Quentin in the direction of Laon on Chaussee Romaine:

Name	Birth	Death	Hometown	Troop/Rank/Co	Co/Regiment	Military Rank
Aschenblatt*, Moritz	12.04.87 Sontra	25.09.18	Sontra	1/Fuss.R.38	6/150	Age 45+ Rifleman
Bachrach, Leopold	15.11.99 Möhlhausen/Thuringen	21.03.18	Möhlhausen	2/Fussa.Btl.90	3/704	Gunner
Bar, Hugo**	22.03.85	03.04.18	Stargard/Pommern		4/526	Pvt 1st Class
Berliner, Bruno***	10.01.92 Flatow/ W. Preussen	29.09.18	Berlin	2/Fussa.Btl.148	8/49	Non-Com
Blumenthal, Walter	8.08.91 Hamm	21.03.18	Hamm	4/Fuss.R.39	6/212	Non-Com
Emanuel, Hermann	17.04.97 Gennweiler/Illingen	24.03.18	Gennweiler	10/I.R.47	5/570	Rifleman
Fabian, Leonard****	3.07.98 Berlin	27.03.16	Berlin	3/I.R.398		Rifleman
Feiner, Seigfried	26.07.95 Lehmen	12.10.16	Koblenz	11/R.I.R.205	7/460	Rifleman
Freudenburg, Rudolf	5.12.99 Ottersberg	10.07.18	Bremen	9/R.I.R.76	11/314	Age 45+ Rifleman
Horn, Hermann	5.11.88 Köln	03.09.18	Köln	2/Fuss.Btl.75	6/113	Lieutenant
Jakier, Robert	26.07.93 Kosten	22.03.16	Fraustadt	12/Grd.R.6	1/137	Rifleman
Kaufmann, Ernst	20.08.98 Blumenthal/Eifel	23.03.18	Blumenthal	2.M.G./I.R.	10/480	Rifleman
Kempner, Erich	7.10.97 Neisse	03.10.19	Neisse	M.G./R.I.R.147	4/369	Rifleman
Laskow, Herbert	3.06.97 Berlin-Schöneberg	22.04.18	Berlin	5/I.R. 135	5/501	Rifleman
Lebenstein, Manfred	3.08.96 Berlin-Charlottenberg	22.07.16	München	12/Ga.Grd.R.3	3/68	Rifleman
Levy, Isidor		14.06.18			11/252	Rifleman
Michel, Kurt	3.03.94 Halle a/Saale	24.03.18	Halle	3/R.I.R.72	3/571	Non-Com
Seligmann, Jakob	2.06.98 Emden (Ostfr.)	21.03.18	Emden	6/I.R.147	13/149	Rifleman
Stock, Josef	24.08.87 Stommeln	27.09.16	Stommeln	8/I.R.363Utflz	4/89	Non-Com
Wehrmann, Nathan		03.10.14				
Weil, Emanuel	4.09.81 Breisach	14.08.16	Breisach	12/I.R.111	12/210	Rifleman

All dates are shown as day/month/year *AKA Aschenbrandt **AKA Hugo Baer ***AKA Dr. Br. Berliner

***Source**: Birth dates and towns from* Die Jüdischen Gefallenen des Deutschen Heeres, der Deutschen Marine und der Deutschen Schutztruppen, 1914-1918, Ein Gedenkbuch, Reichsbund Jüdischer Frontsoldaten, 1932.

In September 1997, my husband and I retraced Max's steps in France as he fought against the French, British and Americans. We visited many Allied war memorials and cemeteries. They were beautifully cared for.

We assumed that the French would not allow a German cemetery on their soil after what the Germans inflicted upon them, but, nonetheless we tried to find the grave of Max Wachsmann and returned to St. Quentin. It was there that I went into a bookstore, looked at WW I histories and unbelievably found, *Lieux De Memoire 14-18 En Pays De Vermandois* by Dominique Morion, en colaboration-ouvrage collectif, Societe Archeologique de Peronne, Essais D'Histoire Locale (tome 2), La Vie A Peronne et Dans Sa Region Pendant La Guerre 14-18, 1993. (Places of Memory 1914-1918, in the Country of the Vermandois, Vol.2).

This book describes the WW I cemeteries and memorials in the vicinity of St. Quentin, with their location and a hand-drawn map. Two German cemeteries are included on that list; one is Le Cimetiere Militaire Allemand de Saint-Quentin, the other is Le Cimetiere Allemand de Maisemy. Jews fought right along side the other German soldiers and they are buried along side each other as well.

While visiting the town of Chateau Thierry, we saw signs for three more WW I memorials and cemeteries, including another German one, on the N3 highway at Belleau. This was near the Belleau woods where many of the fiercest battles took place in the Somme area as the war was coming to an end. Uncle Max was not in this cemetery either. Below is an accounting of the other Jewish German WW I soldiers who died in the battles of that area and were buried in the **Belleau cemetery:**

Name	Birth	Death	Hometown	Troop/Rank/Co	Casualty	Co/Regmt	Military Rank
Cohen, Siegfried	31.03.96 Altona	5.07.18	Altona	3/Felda.R.402	1247	1/1/114	Non-com
Cohn, Martin	11.07.98 Culmsee	7.06.18*	Thorn	12/I.R.45	1266	2/1/403	Lieutenant
Grünbaum, Willy	18.07.90 Magdeburg	20.07.18	Magdeburg	6/I.R.362	1251	1/1/871	Pvt 1st Class
Gutkind, Walter	2.01.99 Peine	17.07.18	Berlin	8/I.R.377	1238	2/1/887	Pvt 1st Class
Kohn, Siegbert	25.01.92 München	7.18.17	Nürnberg	6/bayr.I.R.20	500Bay.	1/1/630	Infantryman
Koppel, Ferdinand	4.09.97 Trittenheim	5.06.18	Trittenheim	9/R.I.R.259	1179	24107	Rifleman
Langgut, Louis	22.06.91 Trappstadt	9.07.18	Trappstadt	7/I.R.372	1238	1/1/572	Pvt 1st Class
Lowenstein, Martin	27.08.91	15.07.18	Neustadt/W.Pr	1.M.G./Grd.R.5	1234	1/1/590	M/Sgt
Morgenthau, Otto	23.02.79 Mainz	7.06.18	Koblenz	Flak Btt. Auf	1196	4/1/684	Sergeant
Schonberg, Ernst		15.06.18				4/1/531	Lieutenant
Stern, Fritz		23.09.17				23011	Rifleman
Zeilberger, Karl	1.09.93 Heinsheim	1/06.18	Heinsheim	1/Felda.R.261	1192	50130	Pvt 1st Class

Key to abbreviations:

Fuss.R. = Footsoldier Regiment
Fussa.Btl. = Footsoldier Battalion
I.R. = Infantry Regiment R.I.R. = Reserve Infantry Regiment
Grd.R. = Guards Regiment
M.G./I.R. = Machine-Gun Infantry Regiment
Ga.Grd.R. = Rifleman Guard Regiment
I.R. Utflz. = Infantry Regiment Non-Commissioned Officer
Felda.R. = Field Artillery Regiment
Bayr.I.R. = Bavarian Infantry Regiment
Flak Btt. Auf Kraftwagon = Motorized Anti-Aircraft Battalion

We never found the grave of Max Wachsmann and still wonder where he is buried. He was not unknown because all his effects were sent home to his parents in Oppeln. The fact that we have his military wallet with the bullet hole in it makes it apparent that someone took it off his body after he died. My husband suspects that as he lay dead on the battlefield, someone took off his helmet, wallet and I.D., buried him where he fell and placed his rifle into the soil as a marker. When the Germans collected their dead, the rifle may have been moved or fell over and his body never found to be reburied in the official WW I memorial cemeteries. Max has not been found but the story of his life and death is still told to this day.

Who Was That?

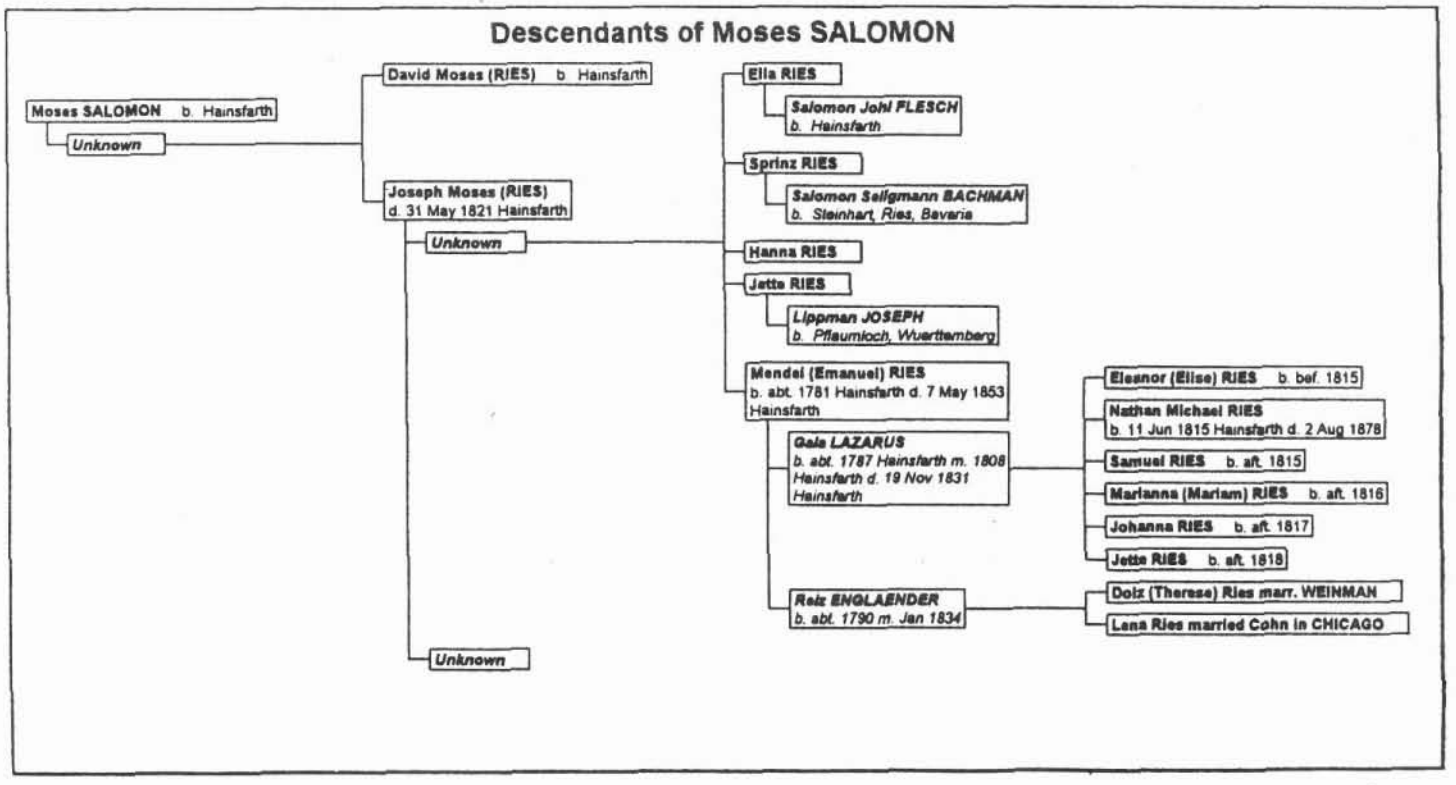
Obscure Persons. At an informal meeting at LBI, several of us – Carol Baird and her husband Steve, Karen Franklin, Frank Mecklenburg – came up with a proposed series of articles devoted to not so famous persons who should be better known. (Famous Unknowns?) We hoped to produce a couple of exemplary articles. We envisioned a short biography plus genealogy of persons with roots in the German-speaking area who made a name for themselves in the United States. One example, Michael Reese, appears below. In short, the question is: "Who Was That?" And the answer should be suitable for publication, with emphasis on accomplishments in the New World, rather than on those who earned their laurels in the Old World. Contributions are welcome, but first send a short query, please. -ga

Who Was Michael Reese?

George E. Arnstein

There are two major reminders of Michael Reese in the United States today: Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, and the Reese Library, part of the collections at the University of California, Berkeley. There also are two visible reminders in Germany: A memorial in Hainsfarth, where he was born as Nathan Michael Ries on 11 June 1815; it misspells his name as Riess (with a second s). And a huge sarcophagus in Wallerstein, where he died on 2 August 1878, with a return ticket to the U.S. in his pocket.

His family tree (below) shows no marriage. There was one extramarital daughter, Alma Michaele, His life had enormous ups and downs. He learned a trade as tanner in Munich, took a boat to Baltimore, probably because of the restrictive provisions of the Bavarian law of 1813 which mandated the adoption of family names, but also put a quota on the number of marriages and households. This law caused his grandfather David Moses to add "Ries," presumably because Hainsfarth is located in the Ries region.



Hainsfarth had a Jewish community since the 15th century, with a synagogue and cemetery, which still exists. It belonged to the Wallerstein line of the Counts von Oettingen.

On arrival Michael seems to have dropped the Nathan part of his name, worked as a tanner, then became a peddler or trader, moved to New York where he established an import business and did so well that he brought over and sent to Chicago six sisters and a brother. Then he went bankrupt, again became a peddler in Virginia around Charlotte, paid his debts, established an auction house in Virginia, made money and moved to Minnesota Territory where he bought lots of land in what is now St. Paul, sold it and made more money. Then he heard of the California gold rush.

On 20 June 1850, after crossing at Panama and a 24-day voyage, he landed in San Francisco, not a poor immigrant but with $120,000 in his pocket. He went into business in Sacramento but had bad luck: He chartered ships and they sank; he invested in stocks and bonds and his bank or broker went bankrupt. And his business was wrecked in a fire.

Next he speculated successfully in San Francisco real estate, may have promised to marry Caroline Clark who, in any event, in 1867 sued him for breach of promise and was awarded $5,000.

Michael Reese, which is how he spelled it, was an admitted tightwad who brought his sandwiches to the trading floor of the exchange and had a reputation for excessive frugality. He "lived above the store" at 410 Montgomery Street in San Francisco.

He was one of the investors in 1876 in the original San Francisco cable cars, the California Railroad Company, along with Leland Stanford, Mark Hopkins, Louis Sloss, and Isaac Wormser. (The latter was honored by the King of Wuerttemberg for his ten years of service as consul in San Francisco.)

In March of 1873 one Casper Hopkins decided that the scholarly collection of Francis Lieber (1800-1872), a professor at Columbia University, should be donated to the fledgling University of California. Hopkins had collected some $1,250 when he approached Reese who, to great surprise, said to give it all back, he personally would provide for the entire $2,000. And that is the basis, later enlarged through his legacy, for the Reese Library at Berkeley where the endowment has grown to $800,000 and the income now provides about $25,000 annually to the library.

Before he left for a trip to Europe, Reese made out his last will, then in October 1876 visited his only known offspring, Alma Michaele, born of an American mother, and adopted by her unnamed foster parents in Hamburg.

A large man, more than six feet tall and weighing some 250 pounds, he went on to Wallerstein where he dropped dead. As for the will, it disposed of a total on which there is no agreement, but was in excess of $5 million. It was probated in 1878 in California and surprisingly left nothing to his daughter. It did provide for siblings, charities, nieces and nephews, including $200,000, for charitable purposes to be decided by his sister Henrietta and her husband Jacob Rosenfeld in Chicago. They used it to establish the Michael Reese hospital.

Sources: Reinhard H. Seitz, "Nathan Michael Ries/ Michael Reese (1815-1878), ein amerikanischer Pioneer aus Hainsfarth" in a collection of biographical sketches collected as *Geschichte und Kultur der Juden in Bayern*, edited by Manfred Treml and Wolf Weigand; Munich; K.G. Saur, 1988. – An essay on Reese by Gernot Roemer in *Schwaebische Juden*, Augsburg: Presse-Druck und Verlag, 1990. – "Michael Reese, Parsimonious Patron of the University of California" by Charles H. Cutter, *California Historical Society Quarterly*, June 1963. – Typescript biographical sketch, 1888, Item 56068, Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

The Rise and Fall of the Landrabbinate

Rolf Hofmann

Translated from Donauwoerther Zeitung, *30 April 1997. The translation was arranged by Nick Landau, London, UK, who added some of his own family data. Reprinted by permission of Mr. Hofmann.*

In the middle of the Jewish cemetery in Wallerstein stands a small group of massive tombstones. Two of them belong to David Weisskopf and Marx Michael Kohn, the last two religious leaders of the Wallerstein [regional] Landrabbinate. Today hardly anyone remembers anything about these once highly respected rabbis.

The Wallerstein Landrabbinate developed in the 18th century as an active counterpart to the Landrabbinat of Oettingen. Around 1800 responsibility for these two rabbinates was entrusted to Pincas Jacob Katzenellenbogen (Oettingen) and Ascher Loew (Wallerstein). Both rabbis were guarantors for the maintaining of religious traditions and the administration of justice in disputes among Jews in the county of Oettingen.

By about 1810 fundamental changes had already taken place. From then on, the county of Oettingen was part of the kingdoms of Bavaria and Wuerttemberg; the Wallerstein Rabbinate had lost Aufhausen, Oberdorf and Pflaumloch, which were now in Wuerttemberg, and on top of everything else, the rabbi himself, by then Ascher Loew, had been appointed to Karlsruhe.

40-Year Vacancy. The royal government was insistent in pressing for a new appointment to the Wallerstein Rabbinate and for the incorporation of the communities of Ederheim and Kleinerdlingen, which had hitherto been oriented towards Oettingen, but met with strong resistance. The orthodox rural Jews were unable to accept that their longstanding religious autonomy should be curtailed and their Judaism should in future be considered as no more than a church under state supervision. So for a long time they were quite happy to make do with the existing local assistant rabbis who were to be had more cheaply than the rabbis recently called for by the government, with their academic education and university degrees.

Although Harburg and Moenchsdeggingen had set up their own small rabbinate with Elkan Selz in 1838, there was eventually an election in 1847 for a new rabbi in Wallerstein. This was under enormous pressure from the government and after the Oettingen Rabbinate had also become vacant through the death of Pincas Jacob Katzenellenbogen. They elected David Weisskopf, who was born in Gunzenhausen and who had enjoyed an excellent education under the respected Rabbi of Wuerzburg, Abraham Bing. In contrast to the orthodox rural communities, the Wallerstein community had been unable to gain acceptance for their desired candidate with an academic education, Wolf Rothenheim.

Soon David Weisskopf was held in general high esteem, and as a result he was also given the position of deputy in the vacant Oettingen Rabbinate, which in turn led to the unification of the two rabbinate districts in 1860. As a consequence the communities of Kleinerdlingen, Ederheim, Oettingen, Hainsfarth, Steinhart, Wassertruedingen, Moenchsroth and Wallerstein itself came under the jurisdiction of the Wallerstein Rabbinate. This unification was sensible, not least on the grounds of cost, but the communities suffered a sharp decline in population. In 1871, the newly founded Jewish community of Noerdlingen joined the Wallerstein rabbinate.

Because of his age, in 1876 David Weiskopf moved to his son-in-law, Marx Michael Kohn, at Kleinerdlingen, and also transferred the seat of the rabbinate there. Kohn who had received an Orthodox education from Rabbi Abraham Wechsler in Schwabach, assisted his father-in-law until the latter's death in 1882, and then himself looked after the Wallerstein Rabbinate for a few more years, until he too died, greatly respected, in 1888.

Because of a lack of money, all the communities pleaded that the vacancy in the Wallerstein Rabbinate should not be filled. Instead they decided in favor of temporarily joining the Ichenhausen Rabbinate under Dr Aron Cohn. Only Hainsfarth turned to the Schwabach Rabbinate under Loew Wissman. In spite of everything, they wanted to keep the Wallerstein rabbinate district together "for later." In retrospect, this was probably little more than wishful thinking. Time had run out for the Wallerstein Landrabbinate.

Juedischer Friedhof Harburg – Schwaben by Meir (Mario) Jacoby, Ruth Lisai-Jacoby and Rolf Hofman, 1996. Privately published, available from Dale Ashmun, P.O. Box 8812, New Orleans, LA 70182-8812, or from Herr Hofman. (Translations of 50 tombstones.)

The Cemetery. Now the only visible reminders of the great days are those mentioned in the introduction: the gravestones of Rabbis Weisskopf and Kohn in the Jewish cemetery in Wallerstein. (This cemetery was also used, until into the 19th century, as the burial place for Jews from Oberdorf, Pflaumloch, Kleinerdlingen, Oettingen and Hainsfarth, before these communities (except Kleinerdlingen) had their own burial places.)

Nick Landau: Marx (or Mordecai) Michael Kohn was my paternal grandfather's grandfather. David Weiskopf was his father-in-law. Rabbi Abraham Wechsler, teacher of Kohn, was my paternal grandmother's great-uncle. Chief Rabbi Abraham Bing was instrumental in returning Jews to Wuerzburg in 1814.

A son of Rabbi Kohn was Rabbi Pinchas Kohn. He was rabbi of Ansbach from 1896-1916. From 1916 to 1918, he was adviser on Jewish education to the German military Government in Poland, together with Rabbi Emanuel Carlebach. Meanwhile my grandfather was serving in the British army in South Africa. I had relatives who were studying in Germany when the First World War broke out who were interned in Germany for the (whole?) duration of the war.

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Oppenheim/er Part III

There have been two previous installments, in **Stammbaum** *11 and 12, of related and unrelated members of family lines named Oppenheim or Oppenheimer. This is the third one – and there may be more to come.*

Christof P. A. Eberstadt (Luitpoldstr. 46, D-91052 Erlangen, Tel: 0049-9131-29 400, Fax: 0049-9131-815 700, <CPA-Eberstadt@t-online.de>). He provided data on the ancestry of Joseph Suess Oppenheimer, extracted from a new book: Hellmut G. Haasis: *Joseph Süss Oppenheimer, genannt Jud Süss. Finanzier, Freidenker, Justizopfer,* pp 8-21. Hamburg: Rohwolt Verlag, 1998.

"The topic Oppenheimer is of major interest, as for many years I tried to establish a link between the Oppenheimer family in Worms and my Eberstadt family, who, according to my theory, are a twig of the Oppenheim tree after a detour to the little town Eberstadt near Darmstadt. Both families lived in the house 'Zum roten Löwen' in Worms and first names are similar. But that is only *en passant.*

"To find proof of this connection I gathered every Oppenheim I could get hold of. Today I think I can contribute some interesting news about Jud Suess Oppenheimer, which can be found in the very latest German book on him by Hellmut G. Haasis.

"Mr. Haasis went into details and seems to me a competent collector and interpreter of archival data. Here are data on the ancestry of Joseph Suess Oppenheimer, extracted from the Haasis book:

1 Issachar Suesskind OPPENHEIMER, b. ?, d. Feb. 1707 Heidelberg
sp1 Name not known, b. , d.
2 Moyses Oppenheimer, b. abt. 1677 Heidelberg?, d: after 1737 Heidelberg?, m. 1702 converted to Christianity and was called „Tauffenberg"
sp name not known., b., d. children?
sp2 name not known, b. , d. 1693-1698 Heidelberg ?
2 Daniel Oppenheimer, b. after 1693 Heidelberg, d. shortly after 1738 Mannheim?, engaged 1736, m.?
sp -- Oppenheimer, b. Heidelberg, d. daughter of Moses Oppenheimer from Heidelberg. No issue
sp3 Michal (Michele) Chasan, b.1679 Frankfurt, d.1753 Edenkoben/Pfalz=Palatinate
daughter of Selmele (Salomon) Chasan from Frankfurt. She married sp2 Gabriel Nathan from Wassertruedingen, court Jew, and had 3 children: Juda Gabriel, Nathan Gabriel, Hirsch Gabriel
2 Thamar Oppenheimer, b. Heidelberg, lived 1722 Edenkoben/Palatinate, d. Edenkoben, m. Heidelberg
sp Mayer Hertz, b., d. Edenkoben/Palatinate 5 children
2 Esther Oppenheimer, b. Heidelberg, d. bef. 1714 Heidelberg as child
2 Joseph Suess Oppenheimer ("Jud Suess"), b. Mar ? 1698 Heidelberg, d. 4 Feb 1738 Stuttgart by hanging. Fatherhood said to be uncertain (presumably for anti-Semitic reasons). Unmarried, affair d'amour with
(sp) Luciana Fischer, b. Apr 1718 Monsheim, d. after 1747, daughter of Georg Anton Fischer & Magdalena,
3 -- (son) Oppenheimer, b. 14 Sep 1737 Ludwigsburg, baptised Protestant, d. 05 Jan 1738 Ludwigsburg during his mother's imprisonment. First name was never revealed by his mother.

After Issachar Suesskind's death in 1707, the young children were brought up under the guardianship of Feist Oppenheimer, head of the Jewish community of Heidelberg, and brother to the imperial court Jew Samuel Oppenheimer in Vienna.

Carol Adler Zsolnay <gmz262@nwu.edu> offers the following, hoping for a tie-in: Johanna Rubel born 1841 in Imsbach, Germany (near Kirchheimbolanden and Kaiserslautern) was living in Lewiston, Maine with her brother and his family as of the 1860 census. She is the sister of my great-great-grandfather.

At some point and in some location in the 1860s, she married Johann/John Oppenheimer from Germany, town unknown, born 1844 in Rheinpfalz, Bavaria, died in New Orleans on 19 Dec 1882. They had eight children in New Orleans between 1871 and 1882 named: Albert, Solomon, Joseph, Rose, Jakob, Belle, Edward and Martha. (I have photos of Albert, Solomon, Joseph, Jakob and Belle as children from a New Orleans studio. I have the names of all other Oppenheims and Oppenheimers who were in the New Orleans City Directory from 1881 to the 1920s if you are interested.)

Robert Pittenger, 158 West 23rd St., New York, NY 10011, reports on the ancestry of his wife, Carol Ascher, with a family tree (copy at LBI, New York) prepared in the 1960s by the late Kurt Stern, with additions and corrections by Dr. Arnold Oppenheimer, 89, still living in London. It takes descendants of Hirsch Oppenheimer to the present.

Israel Oppenheimer, 1756?-1813, father of Hirsch, is the oldest person cited in the article by Louis Oppenheimer, published by Monika Richarz in *Jewish Life in Germany*, Indiana University Press, 1991. Additional data, prepared by Andrea Baumert in *Beitraege zur Geschichte der Stadt Gronau* (Leine) 1991-1996 (Materials for the History of the city of Gronau), suggest ancestors going back to the well known Isaac David Gans of Celle (1728-98).

Arthur S. Obermayer <obermayr@tiac.net>, supplied data on his ancestry. His Macintosh program uses a numbering system that differs from others in this Oppenheimer series. Sources here omitted.

"The Oppenheimer family was from Wachbach (now part of Bad Mergentheim), Wuerttemberg, and is known to have lived there through three generations. Bertha Oppenheimer moved to Archshofen, Wuerttemberg after her marriage, and her children immigrated to United States, Israel and South Africa. The children of David Loew Oppenheimer and Sara Seligman all immigrated to the United States.

"Information contained herein was obtained from the family register at Mergentheim for Archshofen, Creglingen, Craintal and Wachbach in about 1931; from the family register from Landeskirchliche Archiv Archshofen at the Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart in 1997; and from personal family records."

1. Moses Manasses Oppenheimer born in Wachbach (near Bad Mergentheim) & Haya David
  1.1a David Loew Oppenheimer* (25 Dec 1798 - 9 Nov 1871) & Sara ?? (David had three wives, two named Sara)
  1.1b David Loew Oppenheimer* (25 Dec 1798 - 9 Nov 1871) & Sara Seligmann (Crailsheim 29 Jun 1795 - 7 Mar 1829)
    1.1b.1 Sprinz Oppenheimer (12 Mar 1823 -)
    1.1b.2 Manasses Oppenheimer (23 Aug 1825 - 31 May 1914) & Betty Aufhaueser (26 Apr 1836 - 8 Jul 1898)
      1.1b.2.1 Carrie Oppenheimer & Nathan Mannheimer
        1.1b.2.1.1 Albert Mannheimer & Frances Chelimer (- Circa 1990)
        1.1b.2.1.2 Victor Mannheimer & Rita Oppenheimer
          1.1b.2.1.2.1 Richard Mannheimer
      1.1b.2.2 Adolf Oppenheimer
      1.1b.2.3 Lena (Donnie) Oppenheimer
      1.1b.2.4 David Oppenheimer
    1.1b.3 Sara Oppenheimer (15 Jun 1829 - 1853)
  1.1c David Loew Oppenheimer* (25 Dec 1798 - 9 Nov 1871) & Reinlein Henlein (14 Dec 1795 - 22 Jul 1851)
    1.1c.1 Moses Wolf Oppenheimer (8 Oct 1831 - 17 Feb 1838)
    1.1c.2 Abraham Oppenheimer (1 Nov 1833 -)
    1.1c.3 Bertha Oppenheimer (19 Sep 1835 -21 Jan 1910) & Samuel Oberndoerfer (16 Dec 1832 - 7 Nov 1895)
      1.1c.3.1 Rosalie Oberndoerfer (27 Jun 186 -14 Mar 1922) & David Freudenthal (13 Aug 1858-17 Aug 1935)
        1.1c.3.1.1 Kurt Freudenthal (3 Feb 1891 - 1942) & Adele Dannenberg (- 1942)
          1.1c.3.1.1.1 Ruth Freudenthal (19 Jan 1924 -) & Max Rapp
            1.1c.3.1.1.1.1 Adele Rapp (Nov 1947 -) & Joseph Teller
              1.1c.3.1.1.1.1.1 Emily Teller (4 Nov 1972 -)
              1.1c.3.1.1.1.1.2 Rachel Teller (15 May 1976 -)
            1.1c.3.1.1.1.2 Susan Rapp (17 Jan 1952 -) & ? ?
              1.1c.3.1.1.1.2.1 Michael ? (25 Sep 1979 -)
              1.1c.3.1.1.1.2.2 Brian ? (25 Sep 1984 -)
        1.1c.3.1.2 Paula Freudenthal (13 Mar 1896 - 27 Feb 1972) & David Karpf (12 Mar 1883 - 6 Oct 1962)
          1.1c.3.1.2.1 Max Karpf (6 Aug 1920 - 1938)
          1.1c.3.1.2.2 Ruth Karpf (18 Feb 1922 - 11 Jul 1987) & Schlomo Hagai (25 Jul 1918 -)
          1.1c.3.1.2.3 Renee Karpf (18 Aug 1925 -) & Sidney P. (29 Apr 1919 -)
            1.1c.3.1.2.3.1 Barry P. (25 Aug 1956 -)
            1.1c.3.1.2.3.2 Lisa P. (4 Jun 1959 -)
      1.1c.3.2 Anselm (Adolf) Oberndoerfer (7 Nov 1862-10 Jan 1932) & Eva Schloss (3 Dec 1868-21 Dec 1936)
        1.1c.3.2.1 Paul Oberndoerfer (10 Apr 1895 - 7 Jul 1956) & Therese (Tesy) Oestreicher (2 Feb 1900 -)
          1.1c.3.2.1.1 Warner Bein Oberndoerfer (5 Jun 1930-) & Henrietta (Bonnie) Heyman Sasson (21Jan 1927 -)
        1.1c.3.2.2 Siegfried (Fritz) Oberndoerfer (24 Feb 1897-15 Jan 1947)& Miriam Sonneborn (2 May 1903-Feb 1996)
          1.1c.3.2.2.1 Robert Oberndoerfer Harris (11 Nov 1929 -) & Ritalou Rogow (18 Mar 1936 -)
            1.1c.3.2.2.1.1 Peter Harris (14 Aug 1961 -) & Mary Lou Jordan (27 May 1962 -)
            1.1c.3.2.2.1.2 Gail Harris (10 Sep 1963 -) & John Thomason
        1.1c.3.2.3 Elisabeth Oberndoerfer (17 Feb 1905 - 21 Sep 1989) & Max Weissmann (27 Jul 1903 - 24 Jul 1974)
          1.1c.3.2.3.1 Evelyn Weissmann (5 Nov 1930 -) & Justin Krent (14 Sep 1923 - 31 Aug 1990)
            1.1c.3.2.3.1.1 Lauren Krent (13 Apr 1954 -) & Michael Jacker (2 Jan 1954 -)
              1.1c.3.2.3.1.1.1 Sharon Jacker (2 Jun 1982 -)
              1.1c.3.2.3.1.1.2 Daniel Jacker (18 Nov 1988 -)
            1.1c.3.2.3.1.2 Harold Krent (28 Feb 1956 -) & Nancy Fredman (28 Jul 1957 -)
              1.1c.3.2.3.1.2.1 Miriam Krent (25 Jun 1987 -)
              1.1c.3.2.3.1.2.2 Stephanie Krent (26 Apr 1989 -)
              1.1c.3.2.3.1.2.3 Mollie Krent (5 May 1993 -)
          1.1c.3.2.3.2 Margot Weissmann (20 Feb 1936 - 15 Dec 1997) & David Barron (13 Jan 1931 - 11 Dec 1996)
            1.1c.3.2.3.2.1 Elizabeth Barron (21 Oct 1967 -)
      1.1c.3.3 Max Oberndoerfer (24 Jun 1864 - 9 Jun 1933) & Clara Rindskoff (21 Aug 1871 -)
        1.1c.3.3.1 Ida Oberndoerfer (12 Sep 1906 -) & Jack Sanders
          1.1c.3.3.1.1 Erik Sanders (16 Aug 1922 -)
          1.1c.3.3.1.2 Lotte Sanders (23 Mar 1923 -)
        1.1c.3.3.2 Stefan Oberndoerfer (28 Jul 1907 -) & Elizabeth Mergel (24 Mar 1905 -)
      1.1c.3.4 Isak Oberndoerfer (3 Apr 1866 - 12 Feb 1925) & Marie Schwarz (27 Sep 1873 - 3 Nov 1927)
        1.1c.3.4.1 Erma Oberndoerfer (17 Feb 1900 - 10 Aug 1942) & Hugo Schwartz (24 Mar 1892 - 10 Aug 1942)
          1.1c.3.4.1.1 Dalya (Marya) Schwartz (14 Apr 1928 -) & Michael Miller (20 Jun 1924 -)
            1.1c.3.4.1.1.1 Ilan Miller (8 Dec 1955 -) & Naomi Battelheim
              1.1c.3.4.1.1.1.1 Lior Miller (25 Dec 1983 -)
            1.1c.3.4.1.1.2 Orna Miller (26 Feb 1960 -)
          1.1c.3.4.1.2 Yitzak (Heinz Schwartz) Benyehuda (31 Aug 1929 -) & Gila Posman (9 Sep 1934 -)
            1.1c.3.4.1.2.1 Tsafra Benyehuda (2 Jul 1954 -)

1.1c.3.4.1.2.2 Daniel Benyehuda (17 Jun 1963 -)
1.1c.3.4.1.2.3 Erise Benyehuda (15 Feb 1967 -)
1.1c.3.4.1.3 Uri (Manfred Schwartz) Benyehuda (13 Jun 1931 -) & Chava (Eva) Wilner (27 Dec 1929 -)
1.1c.3.4.1.3.1 Erez Benyehuda (18 Jan 1958 -) & ??? ???
1.1c.3.4.1.3.2 Allon Benyehuda
1.1c.3.4.2 Simcha (Siegwart Oberndoerfer) Ofer (12 May 1901 - 2 Jan 1964) & Berta Gutmann (25 Dec 1901 - 21 Jan 1990)
1.1c.3.4.2.1 Ytzhak Ofer (4 Oct 1929 - 22 Jul 1994) & Zfira Rosenberg (10 Jul 1937 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.1.1 Gil Ofer (23 Jul 1964 -) & Shula
1.1c.3.4.2.1.1.1 Ehud Ofer (14 May 1993 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.1.1.2 Naomi Ofer (19 Jun 1995 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.1.2 Ayelet Ofer (27 Apr 1966 -) & Hanoch Laufer
1.1c.3.4.2.1.2.1 Shay Laufer (2 Nov 1989 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.1.2.2 Michal Laufer (11 Jan 1992 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.1.2.3 Daniel Laufer
1.1c.3.4.2.1.3 Amotz Ofer (19 Apr 1970 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.2 Miriam Ofer (15 Jun 1933 -) & Eliahu Klein (30 Aug 1928 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.2.1 Haggit Klein (7 Jul 1957 -) & Shimon Schreiber (31 Oct 1957 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.2.1.1 Ayala Schreiber (12 Sep 1977 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.2.1.2 Shlomit Schreiber (6 Oct 1978 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.2.1.3 Amichai Schreiber (21 Dec 1980 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.2.1.4 Ishay Schreiber (13 Dec 1983 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.2.1.5 Brit Schreiber (20 Sep 1990 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.2.1.6 Shmuel Schreiber (1992 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.2.2 Arye Klein (28 Sep 1960 -) & Hilda Siman Tov (17 Feb 1965 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.2.2.1 Ron Klein (19 Mar 1989 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.2.2.2 Edo Klein (21 Sep 1991 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.2.2.3 Ohad Klein (2 Sep 1995 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3 Rifka Ofer (5 Apr 1935 -) & Pesach Olami (21 Feb 1930 - 30 Aug 1996)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.1 Zeev Olami (16 Oct 1957 -) & Yael Ehrlich (11 Nov 1959 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.1.1 Rachel Olami (21 Jul 1983 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.1.2 Elihu Olami (25 Oct 1984 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.1.3 Asaf Olami (4 Nov 1986 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.1.4 Yehuda Olami (3 Jun 1990 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.1.5 Shlomit Olami (23 Oct 1992 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.2 Amiram Olami (16 Jul 1960 - 27 Nov 1994) & Tirza Mainz (9 Jun 1961 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.2.1 Matanya Olami (1984 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.2.2 Talia Olami (15 Nov 1986 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.2.3 Meir Haleem Olami (26 Jan 1988 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.2.4 Elazar Olami (25 Mar 1991 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.2.5 Sara Olami (20 Oct 1992 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.2.6 Nahama Bat Ami Olami (11 Jul 1995 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.3 Smadar Olami (13 Feb 1964 -) & Ytzhak Yehuda Hermon (10 Feb 1962 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.3.1 Ayelet Hermon (16 Jul 1986 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.3.2 Bracha Hermon (1 Sep 1987 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.3.3 Noga Hermon (28 Dec 1988 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.3.4 Hodaya Hermon (6 Jan 1990 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.3.5 Gila Hermon (16 Dec 1991 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.3.6 Tamar Hermon (30 Nov 1993 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.3.7 Nehama Hermon (6 Apr 1995 -)
1.1c.3.4.2.3.3.8 Shmual Hermon (3 Aug 1996 -)
1.1c.3.5 Hugo Oberndoerfer (5 Oct 1867 - 20 Mar 1937) & Clara (or Klara) Eigner (or Igener) (5 Jan 1879 -)
1.1c.3.5.1 Alice Oberndoerfer (11 Oct 1901 -) & Julius Rosenberg (14 Aug 1892 - 1959)
1.1c.3.5.1.1 Helmut Rosenberg (12 Jul 1924 - 1937)
1.1c.3.5.1.2 Ginta (Gunter) Rosenberg (24 Jul 1927 -) & Elza Rough
1.1c.3.5.1.2.1 Helmut Rosenberg
1.1c.3.5.1.2.2 ??? ???
1.1c.3.5.2 Sigfried Oberndoerfer (27 Sep 1908 -) & Chia (or Klara) Spiegel (10 Mar 1912 -)
1.1c.3.6 Helmina Oberndoerfer (13 Aug 1869 - 8 Jul 1916) & Joseph Sinsheimer (1 Jul 1869 - 5 Oct 1950)

1.1c.3.6.1 August Sinsheimer (19 Jul 1895 - 24 Aug 1897)
1.1c.3.6.2 Zion Sinsheimer (25 Jul 1898 - 18 Oct 1907)
1.1c.3.6.3 Julia Lina Sinsheimer (4 Dec1900-5 Jul 1996) & Leon Jacob Obermayer (24 Sep 1886- 2 Oct 1984)
1.1c.3.6.3.1 Herman Joseph Obermayer (19 Sep 1924 -) & Betty Nan Levy (1 Jan 1932 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.1.1 Helen Julia Obermayer (26 Jul 1959 -) & Eric Myers (Levy-Myers) (17 Aug 1961 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.1.1.1 Reuben Levy-Myers (3 Jun 1995 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.1.1.2 Julian Levy-Myers (1997 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.1.2 Veronica L. Obermayer (24 Jul 1960 -) & Douglas Atnipp (2 Nov 1959 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.1.2.1 Julia Atnipp (10 Apr 1987 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.1.2.2 Sarah Adele Atnipp (7 Jul 1989 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.1.2.3 Benjamin Clay Atnipp (9 Sep 1992 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.1.2.4 William Atnipp (9 Mar 1998 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.1.3 Adele Obermayer (5 Apr 1962 -) & David Malpass (8 Mar 1956 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.1.3.1 Robert Henry Malpass (26 Jul 1996 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.1.4 Elizabeth R. Obermayer (5 Nov 1966 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.2 Helen Adele Obermayer (24 Jan 1927 - 30 Jun 1995) & Alfred M. Sellers (23 Feb 1924 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.2.1 Joseph Marc Sellers (14 Nov 1953 -) & Laurie Davis (13 Apr 1953 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.2.1.1 Daniel Jacob Sellers (27 Dec 1990 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.2.1.2 Sara H. Sellers (7 Apr 1995 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.2.2 David Allen Sellers (19 Apr 1956 -) & Sandra Achenbach (12 Jun 1958 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.2.2.1 Joshua Mark Sellers (7 Feb 1991 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.2.2.2 Jason Adam Sellers (25 Jul 1996 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.3 Vera Lehman Obermayer (9 Apr 1929 - 6 Jun 1929)
1.1c.3.6.3.4 Arthur S. Obermayer (17 Jul 1931 -) & Judith Barbara Hirschfield (7 May 1935 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.4.1 Henry Mark Obermayer (12 Jul 1965 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.4.2 Joel Bruce Obermayer (15 Apr 1967 -)
1.1c.3.6.3.4.3 Marjorie Hannah Obermayer (26 Aug 1972 -)
1.1c.3.7 Emma Oberndoerfer (17 Dec 1871-23 Dec 1927) & Hermann Hirschmann (2 Sep 1869 - 21 Aug 1939)
1.1c.3.7.1a Fritz Sigfried Hirschmann*(24 Oct 1900-4 Mar 1948) & Clementine Schloss Weitzmann (13Apr 1905-)
1.1c.3.7.1a.1a Dany Hirschmann* (10 May 1937 -) & Sarah Feinstein (10 Oct 1936 - 24 Nov 1978)
1.1c.3.7.1a.1a.1 Orit Hirschmann (28 Apr 1964 -) & Abraham (Avi) Cohen (5 May 1964 -)
1.1c.3.7.1a.1a.1.1 Shir Cohen (13 Sep 1992 -)
1.1c.3.7.1a.1a.1.2 Hadar Cohen (17 Nov 1995 -)
1.1c.3.7.1a.1a.2 Machal Hirschmann (5 Jun 1968 -)
1.1c.3.7.1a.1a.3 Paz Hirschmann (14 Mar 1972 -)
1.1c.3.7.1a.1b Dany Hirschmann* (10 May 1937 -) & Bella Steinberg Pur (22 Jul 1948 -)
1.1c.3.7.1b Fritz Sigfried Hirschmann* (24 Oct 1900 - 4 Mar 1948) & Anita Marx (25 Jan 1905 - 5 Jan 1941)
1.1c.3.7.1b.1 Heinz (Yaacov Ayalon) Hirschmann (14 Apr 1930 -) & Penina Shukri (24 Oct 1929 -)
1.1c.3.7.1b.1.1 Benjamin Ayalon (28 Aug 1955 -) & Orna Pfeffer (15 Aug 1958 -)
1.1c.3.7.1b.1.2 Anat Ayalon (13 Aug 1961 -) & Arie Abraham (23 Dec 1958 -)
1.1c.3.7.1b.1.2.1 Yarden Abraham (10 Mar 1990 -)
1.1c.3.7.1b.1.2.2 Nof Abraham (16 Jan 1993 -)
1.1c.3.8 Lina Oberndoerfer (7 Jul 1873 - 30 Nov 1894)
1.1c.3.9 Emil Oberndoerfer (31 May 1877 - 22 Mar 1942) & Regina Kahn (23 Oct 1883 - 22 Mar 1942)
1.1c.3.9.1 Fritz (Simchah) Oberndoerfer (10 Jul 1914 - 5 Oct 1979) & Itka Zilbovich (Aug 1915 -)
1.1c.3.9.1.1 Michael Oberndoerfer (5 Mar 1950 -)
1.1c.3.9.1.2 Natan Oberndoerfer (24 Mar 1953 -)
1.1c.3.9.2 Johannah (Hannah) Oberndoerfer (10 Jul 1914 -) & Ephraim Benjamin (16 Jul 1930 -)
1.1c.3.9.3 Bertha Oberndoerfer (13 Oct 1915 -) & Dani Benderly (22 Dec 1914 - 14 Jan 1976)
1.1c.3.9.3.1 Uri Benderly (2 Dec 1954 -)
1.1c.3.9.3.2 Michael Benderly (12 Apr 1958 -)

Werner L. Frank is the source of the following chart:

1 Juda Loeb OPPENHEIM
+Chava BACHRACH Source: Daniel Loeb d: 5.Apr.1701 Hemsbach
2 R. Simon OPPENHEIMER d: 1753 Hemsbach
3 Juda Loeb OPPENHEIMER d: 1772 Hemsbach
+Rechle ???? d: 1811 Hemsbach
4 Herz OPPENHEIMER d: 1842
+RIVKE d: 1852
5 Jakob OPPENHEIMER b: 1801 d: 1883
6 Moses OPPENHEIMER b: 26.Dec.1855 d: 2.Nov.1929 Hemsbach
+Gammi (Gimi) WEINGARTNER b: 24.Jun.1866 Flehingen d: 14.Jan.1962 Chicago m: 13.Jul.1888
7 Rebecka OPPENHEIMER b: 11.Jul.1889 d: 25.Dec.1970 Toledo, OH
+Hermann STERN b: 26.Nov.1882 Niederklein d: 23.Oct.1970 Toledo, OH m: 13.Sep.1911
8 Gertrude Leona STERN b: 10.Oct.1912
+Carl Leibowitz LEIB b: 4.Feb.1908 m: 21.Mar.1937
9 James Lester LEIB b: 13.Apr.1941
+Linda Kay MOZNER b: 18.Mar.1948 m: 14 Feb.1976
10 Jason Herman LEIB b: 1972
10 Heide LEIB
9 Edward Samuel LEIB b: 1.May.1946
+Lynee Marlene METHENE m: 21.Mar.1974
10 Sarah Kathryn LEIBA b: 6.Mar.1976
10 Alisa Metheny LEIB b: 4.May.1978
9 Robert David LEIB b: 15.Oct.1950
8 .. Helen Elsie STERN b: 14.Oct.1914 d: 14.Jun.1994
+Walter S. TREUHAFT d: 15.Jun1992 m: 6.Jun.1937
9 [1] Linda Sue TREUHAFT b: 6.Apr.1941
+Thomas Levitt FRIEDMAN b: 18.May.1937 m: 3.Jun.1962
10 Jeffrey Edward FRIEDMAN b: 3.Apr.1966
10 Dena Ann FRIEDMAN b: 18.Apr.1968
+Mikel RIVES
10 Michael Howard FRIEDMAN b: 30.Jan.1975
10 Melissa FRIEDMAN b: 25.Apr.1977
10 Rachel FRIEDMAN b: 25.Apr.1977
*2nd Husband of [1] Linda Sue Treuhaft:
+Thomas D. Dorn SR. m: 3.Aug.1990
9 Thomas Stern TREUHAFT b: 13.Mar.1946
+Jennifer Lynn KNAPP b: 26.Jan.1947 m: 22.Dec.1969
7 Jakob (Jack) OPPENHEIMER b: 2.Sep.1890 d: 17.Sep.1954 Chicago
+Mabel SOLOMON b: 14.Jul.1890 Chicago d: 21.Jan.1952 Chicago m: 1923
8 Robert Leonard OPPENHEIMER b: 13.May.1925 d: 7.Oct.1992 Miami
+Maita SHOELSON b: 1.Jan.1929 m: 21.Oct.1950
9 Leslie Merle OPPENHEIMER b: 29.May.1953
+Mansour (Mike) TAHERI b: 28.Aug.1949 Teheran, Iran
10 Adrienne TAHERI
10 Jordan TAHERI
9 Ross Aaron OPPENHEIMER b: 14.Jul.1955
+Claudia WILSON b: 29.May.1951 Bon Terre, MO
9 Jeryl Lyn OPPENHEIMER b: 30.Mar.1960
+Michael MADFIS b: 20.Mar.1958 Boston
8 Edward OPPENHEIMER b: 4.Jul.1930
+Betsy BOBINSKY m: 20.Sep.1953
9 Mark David OPPENHEIMER b: 1.Dec.1955
9 Neil Allen OPPENHEIMER b: 27 Dec.1957
+Sandy ???
10 Erik OPPENHEIMER
10 Max OPPENHEIMER
9 Jay Aaron OPPENHEIMER b: 7.Aug.1960
7 [2] Gustav (Gedaliah) OPPENHEIMER b: 26.Dec.1892 d: 1.Apr.1970 Chicago
+Amanda (Miriam) FLORSHEIM d: 26.Nov.1957 Chicago m: 16.Apr.1923
8 Erich Jacob OPPENHEIMER b: 16.Jul.1924
+Beatrice GOLDBERG b: 8.May.1924 m: 3.May.1953
9 Howard Myron OPPENHEIMER b: 21.Jul.1954
+Jaclyn Adrienne FELDMAN b: 5.Sep.1954 m: 4.Jan.1976
10 Amanda Sharon OPPENHEIMER b: 27.Nov.1978
10 Delia Nechama OPPENHEIMER b: 21.Jul.1981
10 Max OPPENHEIMER b: 18.Feb.1988

8 .. Alfred (Al) OPPENHEIMER b: 29.Oct.1925 d: 1.Nov.1985 Haifa
+Betty Viola (Betty) STEIN b: 12.Apr.1928 m: 5.Nov.1950
9 Gil Moshe OPHIR b: 19.Nov.1952
+Chana FREUND m: 6.Jun.1979
10 Natanya OPHIR b: 14.May.1980
10 Eyal Naftali OPHIR b: 4.Aug.1981
10 Rachel OPHIR b: 10.Jul.1983
10 Avital OPHIR b: 27.Dec.1985
10 Ro'ay Asher OPHIR b: 1.May.1990
9 Orna Mina OPPENHEIMER b: 19.Mar.1956
+R. Mordecai COHEN m: 13.Jul.1976
10 Miryam Na'ava T'hililla COHEN b: 21.Feb.1978
10 Amitai Gedalia COHEN b: 14.Aug.1979
10 Eliahu Yaer Ilan COHEN b: 20.Jan.1981
10 Emuna Zimratia COHEN b: 16.Sep.1983
10 Noam Asher COHEN b: 11.Feb.1987
10 Malkiel Yigal COHEN b: 5.Aug.1990
10 Moshe David COHEN b: 5.Jul.1993
9 Dan Yacov OPPENHEIMER b: 6.Mar.1959
+Miriam COMEMI m: 12.Oct.1982
10 Shmuel OPPENHEIMER b: 12.Jun.1987
10 Asher OPPENHEIMER b: 8.Sep.1989
9 Miriam Aliza OPPENHEIMER b: 20.Sep.1961
+David MAGDER b: Toronto m: 22.Sep.1986
10 Chava Ilana MAGDER b: 14.Jul.1987
10 Rivka Amalia MAGDER b: 19.May.1989
10 Asher MAGDER b: 24.Sep.1991
10 Tirza Malka MAGDER b: 31.Mar.1994
9 Joel Ari OPPENHEIMER b: 24.Sep.1966
+T'hila AUERBACH m: 4.Feb.1994
*2nd Wife of [2] Gustav (Gedaliah) Oppenheimer:
+Blanca FREUND m: 22.Mar.1959
7 Carl OPPENHEIMER b: 1895 d: 1980 Chicago
+Jeanette DANNENBERG b: 1901 d: 1986 Chicago
7 Betty OPPENHEIMER b: 24.Sep.1898 Hemsbach d: 16.Jun.1997 Chicago
+Max SCHMIDT b: 15.Nov.1891 d: 13.Jul.1947 m: 21.Apr.1921
8 Hilde SCHMIDT b: 23.Apr.1922
+Eric HEILBRON b: 3.Aug.1918 m: 5.Nov.1942
9 [3] David Simon HEILBRON b: 9.Sep.1948
+Ann WEISS
*2nd Wife of [3] David Simon Heilbron
+Pat ???
10 Shayna HEILBRON b: 13.Jul.1981
10 Arielle (Eve) HEILBRON b: Nov.1979
9 Mark Stephen HEILBRON b: 18.Mar.1951
8 .. Manfred SCHMIDT b: 25.Jun.1930 Kaltennordheim d: 21.Oct.1991 Jerusalem
+Sara LEFF m: 5.Jun.1955
9 Debora Shira SCHMIDT b: 4.Oct.1958
+Avi HAVIVI
10 Rebecca HAVIVI
10 Eve HAVIVI
9 Daniel Moses SCHMIDT b: 9.Mar.1960
+Smadar POLOVIN m: 1982
10 Maital SCHMIDT
10 Dotan SCHMIDT
10 Noam SCHMIDT
9 Jonathan David SCHMIDT b: 1.Dec.1961
9 Judah Benjamin SCHMIDT b: 4.Jul.1963
+Louise TOWNSEND
9 Michael Adam SCHMIDT b: 5.Nov.1965
+Lori SKOPP m: 1990
10 Adiel Keren SCHMIDT b: 15.Jul.1994
10 Amior Jacob SCHMIDT b: 1.Aug.1996
9 Joshua Israel SCHMIDT b: 12.Jul.1969

Researching Bohemia and Moravia

Anne Feder Lee and Susan Fisher Boyer

About 15 Bohemia and Moravia researchers met at the 18th Annual Seminar on Jewish Genealogy (Los Angeles, July 1998). Below is a list of resources for researching Bohemian/Moravian family and history, distributed at our meeting. We encourage all who are interested in Bohemia and Moravia to join the new German-Jewish Special Interest Group which is being set up on JewishGen. The SIG will cover Germany, Austria, Alsace, Switzerland, and Bohemia and Moravia. Please contact Anne Feder Lee <103004.2157@compuserve.com> for further information.

David, Abraham, ed., *A Hebrew Chronicle from Prague*, c. 1615. (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1993). Epstein, Helen, *Where She Came From, a Daughter's Search for her Mother's History*. (Boston: Little, Brown, 1997). Fiedler, Jiri, *Jewish Sights of Bohemia and Moravia*. (Prague: Sefer, 1991).Gold, Hugo, *Die Juden und Judengemeinden Boehmens in Vergangenheit und Gegenwart* [Jews and Jewish Communities in Bohemia in the Past and Present]. (Brunn-Prag: Juedischer Buch und Kunstverlag, 1934). Gold, Hugo, *Die Juden und Judengemeinden Maehrens [Moravia] in Vergangenheit und Gegenwart.* Gruber, Samuel and Phyllis Myers, *Survey of Historic Jewish Monuments in the Czech Republic.* A Report to the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. (New York: Jewish Heritage Council, World Monuments Fund 1994).

Iggers, Wilma Abeles, ed., *The Jews of Bohemia and Moravia*, A Historical Reader .(Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1992).Kieval, Hillel J., *The Making of Czech Jewry, National Conflict and Jewish Society in Bohemia, 1870-1918.* (New York: Oxford U. Press, 1988). *Terezinska A Pametni Kniha* [The Terezin Memorial Book]. Two Vols. Part 1 from October 16, 1941 - June 30, 1942; Part 2 from July 2, 1942 - March 7, 1945. There is also an English guide. To order the book, contact Nadace Terezinska iniciative, 110 00 Prague 1, Diouha 37, Czech Republic.

Czech and Slovak Jewish Family and Community History: publishes the journal *Phoenix*, one vol. (1997) published so far. For membership in the Czech and Slovak Jewish Communities Archive, contact Ruth Davis at 86-17 139th Street, Jamaica, NY 11435.Czechoslovak Genealogy Society International, P. O. Box 16225, St. Paul, MN 55116-0225. Quarterly newsletter, "Nase rodina" and bi-annual journal "Rocenka." Czech and Slovak American Genealogy Society of Illinois, P. O. Box 313, Sugar Grove, IL 60554. Quarterly newsletter *Koreny*

Society for the History of Czechoslovak Jews, *The Jews of Czechoslovakia, Historical Studies and Surveys.* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America; New York: Society for the History of Czechoslovak Jews). 3 Vols. and Review of the Society for the History of Czechoslovak Jews (a journal and sequel to the 3Vols. above.) There have been 6 issues with the latest published in 1993. For membership in the Society for the History of Czechoslovak Jews, write: Anita Grosz, esq. (Sec/Treas), P. O. Box 187, Scarsdale, NY 10583.

Microfilms and the Frühauf Genealogy

In the German genealogy journal *Familie und Geschichte* (Vol.3, No.3, 1997) there appeared a rather detailed article on "Die juedischen Familien Frühauf aus Aschenhausen und Stadtlengsfeld." Many of the data come from microfilms of the synagogual registers for Aschenhausen, Meiningen, Stadtlengsfeld and Walldorf going back to the 18th century, and located at the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt/Main. This is especially noteworthy because several archives – the Thueringische Hauptstaatsarchiv in Weimar, the Lutheran church archive in Eisenach, and the Jewish community for Thueringen – responded to inquiries that the original records were destroyed during the infamous *Kristallnacht*[1] of November 1938.

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[1] German usage has shifted from the rather bland *Kristallnacht*; references today tend to be to *Reichspogromnacht*, the word used by Dr. Frühauf.

The records in Frankfurt are filmed copies, part of a collection compiled by the Nazis as preparation for arrests and deportations. A similar, probably larger collection of such microfilms for Wuerttemberg and Hohenzollern, exists at the Stuttgart Hauptstaatsarchiv, with duplicate copies at the Jewish community in Stuttgart.

The Fruehauf data were compiled by Dr. Stefan Frühauf (Steubenstr.54/1, D-69121 Heidelberg) who belongs to a different Frühauf family, all of whose members are Christians[2]. Here, in very brief form, is what he found.

Aschenhausen had among its early family names: Gronsfeld, Katz/Katzenstein, Auerbach, Levi (changed to Schmidt) and Samse with descendants named Bettmann and Friedmann. Other names were Richheimer, Gruenstein, Oppenheimer and Wertheimer.

Moses Katz had a son named Abraham Katz who in turn had three sons who adopted three different names: Stern, Nußbaum, and Frühauf. Of some 40 known Frühauf descendants, most stayed in Germany although there were some late pre-WWII escapes to the U.S.

Stadtlengsfeld had a larger Jewish community, beginning with a 1731 tax roll which lists 29 Jewish households, although the earliest known Frühauf was born around 1740; his first name was Eliof, also written as Leib, Loeb or Levi. His grandson Eliof emigrated to the U.S. with numerous descendants in Cincinnati, and so did most of the descendants of another grandson, Eisemann Eliof Frühauf. The Americans simplified the spelling to Fruhauf, while another branch, descended from Victor Eliof Frühauf, remained in Germany.

While the article here summarized is very thorough and well documented, it leaves room for further research, like Isidor F. who died in 1866 and Jacob F. who died in 1871, both buried in Price Hill cemetery in Cincinnati but not (yet?) connected to other Fruhaufs. Then there is Rabbi Solomon Freehof, born in London in 1903 from a family that appears to have originated in Galicia or Slovakia. He, too, went to Cincinnati, unlike Joszef Frühauf, born 1796 in Dukla in Galicia; he lived in Kaschau, Hungary, today Kosice, Slovakia.

– Summarized by George E. Arnstein

[2] Cf. for example Stefan and Matthias Frühauf, "Die historische Verbreitung des Familiennames Frühauf" in *Genealogisches Jahrbuch*, Band 30, 1990/91, pp. 61-68.

A Trip to the German Rhineland

Fred Levy

This article describes the impressions and emotions I experienced during my trip during the summer of 1998.

My father was born in Aach, a small hamlet near Trier; my great-grandparents lived in Wittlich, about 20 minutes away, both in the Mosel Valley. I started making plans for a small family reunion in the German Rhineland and contacted Dr. Marianne Buehler of the Wittlich Emil Frank Institute to work out details. The Institute promotes contacts between Jews and non-Jews, and regards as one of its tasks the research and documentation of the former and existing Jewish communities in Wittlich and in the county of Trier. Throughout our trip all the Germans we met were very friendly and the program for the whole week was an astounding success.

Trier. We began on the morning of August 24th with a guided tour through Trier, one of the oldest cities in Europe, complete with Roman ruins. In the afternoon we visited the Trier synagogue, now a memorial.The president of the current Jewish congregation, Gerd Voremberg told us that before the Holocaust the Trier congregation numbered 1,066. Only 14 returned after the war. Today the membership is 50 families, mostly from Russia and eastern Europe, not very

knowledgeable about Jewish traditions because they were not exposed to them in the old countries. It was obvious that, although it is not easy for the congregation to cope with the newcomers, the congregation would have died out without them.

Wittlich. The next morning we spent with Maria Wein-Mehs, a researcher specializing in the history of the Wittlich Jews, discussing the Dublons of Wittlich and her book about the Jewish Cemetery of Wittlich (co-author: Reinhold Bolden, *Der juedische Friedhof in Wittlich.* Stadt Wittlich: 1993). The origins of the Dublon family and of the name Dublon were not resolved. Although many branches of the Dublon family were told that our origins are in Spain, there seems to be no concrete evidence for this. We found one potentially relevant item on display in the synagogue museum: an old prayer book from Cordoba, Spain with the following inscription: "This prayer book belongs to the modest Jew called Israel from Neder Emel on the Mosel." The accompanying description noted that in the year 1644 this book was in the possession of Jacob ben Moshe Raphael of Cordoba.

We visited the Wittlich synagogue, built in 1910, and rededicated in 1991 when it was converted to a cultural center. In its center is a memorial to the victims of the Holocaust.

We also visited the house where David (Joseph) Dublon lived. He was my 5th-great-grandfather. In two small houses – the Dublon house, where eight people lived in 1800, and the small house next door – 80 Jews dwelled while awaiting deportation to the camps.

The Jewish cemetery of Wittlich was refurbished by the city after WW II and after a 1987 vandalism incident. The cemetery is full of Dublon head stones of various ages and in various states of repair. The oldest is from about 1672 and appears to be the resting-place of "Gnendele, daughter of David." Maria Wein-Mehs is currently researching to determine if this Gnendele is an additional daughter of David (Joseph) Dublon.

Beilstein. During a boat trip down the Mosel river to Beilstein we visited an old synagogue which now houses a gift shop of Mexican art. There remain many Jewish artifacts on the wall, such as a Mogen David and a Menorah, and a balconied second story where women attended services.

Aach. On the way out of Germany we went to Aach where we met the mayor. He presented us with an aerial photo of Aach taken about 1990, whch shows clearly where the "Levy" house still stands. In this house, my father and three generations of his ancestors were born. We were welcomed and treated very hospitably. We also were told that the local residents feel very sensitive and somewhat guilty because they were able to pick up Jewish properties for nearly nothing in the late 30's.

One of the young Germans asked: "Do you hold me personally responsible for what my parents did?" Maybe not. But as I walked on their cobblestone streets, and while the German people also walked on the same streets, under the same sky, I could not forget that their parents and grandparents sent my ancestors to the gas chambers. Or, maybe merely stood by and watched in silence.

My parents and I left Germany in 1935 without our possessions but with our lives. Until this August, I had never returned. As I feel this instant, I will probably never go to Germany again.

Book Reviews and Notes

The Jewish Experience: *A Guide to Manuscript Sources in the Library of Congress.* Kohn, Gary J., compiler. Cincinnati: American Jewish Archives, 1986, xii, 167 pp, including index, pp. 151-166. Series: Marcus, Jacob R., and Peck, Abraham J., eds., Monographs of the American Jewish Archives, Number 11. Z6373.U5K64 1986. ISBN: 0-87820-014-2.

This review of a book published a dozen years ago is intended as an aid to research, an indication of how to use library catalogs. It is possible to find similar books by substituting one term for another so that, if you know of a book in one category, you can find another book in a similar but non-identical category.

Simply search for the desired book subject in the Library of Congress databases using the search terms from a known work on a similar subject and substitute the geographical or other term that best describes the area of interest.

Here is an example based on the Library of Congress searchable subject headings. Try "Jews -- United States -- Manuscripts -- Catalogs" and this will result in discovering the book reviewed here. If you substitute "Germany" for "United States" in the previous string, the search will result in the listing for a book by Yeshiva University Archives, An Inventory to the Mordechai Bernstein Collection, 1605-1965, Roger S. Kohn, compiler. [New York, N.Y.]: Yeshiva University Archives, 1987, 148 pp. Call number Z6373.G3Y47 1987, which you may then consult at the Library of Congress and other libraries.

The Guide reviewed here focuses on specifically Jewish aspects of the manuscript collections from the Library of Congress. It contains *no* listings of published works but does frequently list the works of published authors. If you have a relationship to a famous person, or seek to ascertain whether you do, some of the manuscript holdings may provide a clue. What the files contain, however, varies from file to file. The listings begin with pre-Independence items, such as the Inquisition, and continue to the present. The Library of Congress Manuscript Division is always adding to its holdings. In some cases, the holdings listed in the *Guide* have been augmented since the publication of the book in 1986.

The introduction is a useful guide on how best to use the book. It defines and thus includes anyone born a Jew as Jewish. It points out that the *Guide* is divided into three parts:

- Collections, listed by title;
- Individuals and Corporations, listed in alphabetical order by name of person or corporation;
- Subjects arranged alphabetically by collection title.

Collections marked with an * have restricted access; consult the staff of the Manuscript Division for restrictions. Entries include birth and death dates of individuals, show the type of material, date span of the collection, occupation of the person named, the National Union Catalog Manuscript Collection entry number (used to display the record in the electronic card catalog, but not all entries have an NUCMC number); the collection size by the number of items; the collection size in linear feet; and what finding aids, register, or index exist for the collection.

For the section on Individuals and Corporations, the entries contain the name of the individual, his/her birth and death dates, the country of most recent citizenship, occupation, title of the collection(s) in which the individual appears, the number of the collection container(s) (sometimes obsolete if the collection has been augmented), and restrictions on access.

Corporations are treated similarly except that no personal data appear. However, the corporate holdings contain references to individual Jews. The section is organized first to list institutions, such as universities anywhere in the world, then organizations, mostly United States entities, then publications, such as newspapers.

For the *Subjects* section, the entries indicate restricted access, the collection title, the container number(s), the subject entry within the collection, and the date span of the entry. The subjects are divided into Americana, Israel, Palestine, Zionism, Miscellany, Judaica, Persecution, Holocaust, Inquisition, and Russian/Soviet Jewry.

The *Guide* covers only the holdings of the Manuscript Division. The Library of Congress has other manuscript holdings in the Hebraic, Performing Arts, and Rare and Special Collections Divisions. While the collections are overwhelmingly centered on United States citizens, the collections also include holdings of other persons as well, such as British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, the Austrian psychiatrists Joseph Breuer and Sigmund Freud, Freud's daughter Anna, Albert Einstein, French novelist Émile Zola and Austrian writer Stefan Zweig. Individuals who corresponded with persons whose archives are part of the Manuscript Division, are listed in the index and often appear listed in the individual entries. For example, the book indicates

that the Division holds at least one letter (author's copy) exchanged between Irving Berlin and Theodore Roosevelt.

In some cases, the files contain memoirs or diaries. Sometimes, unusual items appear in the holdings, such as those of Rosika Schwimmer (1877-1948), Hungarian public official and political activist for peace and women's rights; or manuscript versions of studies on Spinoza by famous writers.

Anyone closely enough related to a Jew who might have corresponded with a famous Jew might find it useful to check the *Guide* for a discussion of any possible relationship. How closely related is problematical since that issue depends upon the contents of the container, which can be anywhere from one item to many thousands of items and will contain what the subject person thought important enough to donate to the Manuscript Division. This list of topics is quite comprehensive. For example, the Americana listing includes the Manuscript Division holdings of the Hamburg Passenger Lists and British colonial naturalizations in the American colonies from 1740-61.

– Reviewed by Edward David Luft

Rexingen Cemetery. When I received *In Stein Gehauen; Lebensspuren auf dem Rexinger Judenfriedhof* I expected another in the growing and respectful list of cemetery books. In fact it is Volume I in a series being issued by Stadt Horb, with a thoughtful introduction by the Lord Mayor, Michael Theurer, who notes that no less than six Jewish cemeteries are located within today's Rexingen city limits.

The editors are Nina Michielin and Heinz Hoegerle; the publisher is Theiss, a Stuttgart company on behalf of the Horb Stadtarchiv. 1997. Oversize. x + 424 pp.

I intended to go through my maternal ancestral database, now with more than 5,000 names of real and potential relatives, and to have the software identify all those who had a Rexingen connection. I expected very few "hits" and got half a dozen, all of them peripheral. I also read the book with increasing interest to the point where I concluded that it is not only excellent but exemplary.
Only about 300 of the almost 1,000 tombstones are reproduced in black and white – none in color, unlike some more spectacular other books of this nature – but all of them are listed, translated in their entirety, with a good index. There even is a list of children's plots without tombstones.

The documentation differs from many others because the compilers focused not only on surviving stones but sought out supplementary information from documents. There were at least 1,176 burials for which 931 stones or fragments survive. All face east toward Jerusalem.

Rexingen buried its dead in nearby Muehringen as of about 1720. In 1760, Rexingen bought its own plot from the local rulers, the Knights of St. John, and subsequently enlarged the cemetery in 1846, 1874, 1896, and 1914. The oldest identifiable stones – fragments – date from 1765 and 1778.

There is a documented incident of juvenile vandalism. In 1941 three juveniles pushed over some tombstones. Arnold Isenberg, the Jewish teacher, reported the incident to city hall. The mayor charged Sergeant Anstett of the gendarmerie to take on the case and he found out who was responsible. Then the regional office of the Nazi party and the regional government got involved. The problem then became political because Anstett had already told Isenberg the names of the perpetrators. This was solved by transferring Anstett somewhere else as punishment, and the mayor ordered the tombstones to be restored which helps to explain why there was essentially no destruction during the Nazi period.

– George E. Arnstein

Germany for the Jewish Traveler. German National Tourist Board. 36 pp. No date, probably 1997. Paper. Free on request to German National Tourist Offices.

Geoffrey Weill is credited as the author of this short, simple, useful and politically correct booklet, which, if anything, is philo-semitic. It is useful because it lists museums and synagogues, phone numbers, and

hours of operation. It is simple, mostly because it is less than exhaustive, summarizes German history rather tersely, and sticks to its subject. And it is politically correct in many ways: it speaks of Jewish Germans as well as German Jews; it quotes Helmut Kohl, [outgoing] German chancellor, that the Holocaust was "the darkest and most painful chapter in German history." References to the late German Democratic Republic are reasonably neutral.

"Some 70,000 Jews live now in Germany. [It] is one of the few Jewish communities in the world that is growing, as Jewish people, particularly many from the former Soviet Union, are choosing Germany as their new home," according to an introductory message from the head of the Central Council of Jewish Communities in Germany.

Since the booklet is published by the Tourist Board, it has many references to towns which are attractive, restored synagogues which are beautiful, and occasionally it skips over some dark aspect of German history, as in this example: "*Nuremberg*. Since the mid-12th century, Jews have lived in this gorgeous city." Oops, no mention of the edict of 1498 – actual expulsion was postponed until March 1499 – and the absence of Jews until they could settle there again in the middle of the 19th century.

But these are quibbles because; above all, the booklet is useful. It includes a reminder that there were rural Jewish communities before the Holocaust, while today there are none. It mentions worthwhile sites in small villages like Schnaittach or Ichenhausen, and even gives the address where Henry Kissinger lived in Fuerth, a city identified for its unique lack of a Jewish ghetto. -ga

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The Invisible Wall: Germans and Jews, a Personal Exploration. W. Michael Blumenthal

Werner Michael Blumenthal's life began in Berlin and there he currently is again as head of the Berlin Jewish Museum. Not surprisingly, the focus of his book deals with various ancestors and relatives – Jost Liebmann, Giacomo Meyerbeer – as illustrations of the difficult co-existence of Germans and Jews.

Dr. Blumenthal (Ph.D. in economics from Princeton) went on to a distinguished career as head of the late Bendix corporation, and as U.S. Secretary of the Treasury in the Carter Administration, although this success is mentioned most peripherally in a book which sticks to what is promised in the title.

It so happens that I knew Mike at Berkeley, where, newly arrived from Shanghai, he was a year or two behind me. His entry in *Who's Who in America* fails to mention his parents, while his new book deals extensively with his ancestry, near and far, including a chapter devoted to his father.

I enjoyed reading the book despite a sad theme: that while so many of us thought that Jews had achieved German citizenship during the 19th century and were Germans – that the juxtaposition was no longer Jews versus Germans – in fact, there has been and still is an invisible wall between Germans and Jews.

– *George E. Arnstein*

Euer Name Lebt; Zur Geschichte der Juden in der Region Bersenbrück. Von Borries, Maria. Bramsche: Rasch Verlag, 1997. 407pp.

It never ceases to amaze me that so many books continue to appear chronicling the history and fate of small and large Jewish communities in Germany (see "Memorial Books for Specific States and Localities" in Stammbaum Issue 13).

Euer Name Lebt; Zur Geschichte der Juden in der Region Bersenbrück is a gem in this collection, describing the small Jewish communities which once existed in Kreis Bersenbrück, which lies north of Osnabrück and southwest of Bremen. In over 400 pages, Maria Von Borries outlines how these communities were established early in the 19th century, how they developed until 1933, and their fate thereafter.

The Nazi period is described in great detail, with numerous documents and pictures which go far beyond the usual brief texts and name lists which characterize most Gedenkbücher. Indeed, it is the individual family histories, with correspondence and

illustrations, which gives this book its unique strength. One can trace how each family struggled, some successfully through emigration, most unsuccessfully. And the book constitutes a monument both to those who perished and to those who survived.

Euer Name Lebt includes an extensive list of the author's sources as well as a Personenregister, listing all persons mentioned anywhere in the text. I have donated the book to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum library, but if any reader wishes to ascertain if family names of interest to him/her are included, I shall be happy to provide this information. (<pdlande@compuserve.com>)

– Peter Landé

Library Resources for German-Jewish Genealogy. Angelika Ellmann-Krüger with Edward David Luft. Teaneck, NJ: Avotaynu Inc., 1998.

A copy of the monograph *Library Resources for German-Jewish Genealogy* should be in every serious German-Jewish genealogist's personal library. It discusses the holdings of major libraries in Germany, both university libraries and specialized libraries, in the area of German-Jewish genealogy. For every library mentioned, there is a description of how it can be accessed, including electronically in many cases. Also mentioned are the hours when each library is open, fees charged, etc. Of course, some of this information can quickly be outdated, especially fees and electronic access, which are in a state of constant flux.

There are also lists in Ellmann-Krüger's monograph of articles and books relevant to German-Jewish genealogy. Topics here include: Methods and Means of German-Jewish Research; Published Genealogies; Family Histories, Autobiographies, Biographies and Biographical Sketches; Regional and Local Histories of German Jews; Jewish Cemeteries; etc. Titles of those references that are in German are also translated into English. Each book listed is accompanied by its Library of Congress call number where available and other identification in most cases when it is not. A German library where each book or article is available is also mentioned. These lists are by no means all-inclusive — a more complete list can be assembled from the Leo Baeck Institute's Yearbooks. Indeed, Ellmann-Krüger, herself, has written an earlier book on this topic (*Auswahlbibliographie zur jüdischen Familienforschung vom Anfang des 19. Jahrhunderts bis zur Gegenwart* [Selected Bibliography of Jewish Family Research from the Beginning of the 19th Century to the Present] Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1992.) However, the importance of citations of locations of each reference should not be minimized as I have spent years in some cases trying to find copies of works mentioned in an LBI yearbook. (The LBI does not own everything mentioned in its own yearbooks.)

My major complaint with *Library Resources for German-Jewish Genealogy* is that its title is misleading. I would expect a book with this title to include libraries outside of Germany such as the LBI's library, the library of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the Library of Congress in Washington, and many others. The book only covers libraries in Germany. With that said, the book is well-worth owning and can be purchased from the publisher. The current price is $20 plus shipping and handling, available through Avotaynu.

A lengthy article describing the contents of this book in more detail was published in *Avotaynu* (XIV, 1, Spring 1998, pp. 31-35.)

– Ralph N. Baer

The Origin & History of the Family and Branches of the Berliners of Hannover, 1720-1997. Philipp Goldman. Order from author, 9 Island Ave., Suite 2014, Miami, FL 33139. $29.50 incl. domestic shipping. This volume of 262 pages includes many major Hannover families.

The Hönig/Hoenig Family from Kirchenbirk, Falkenau and Karlsbad, Bohemia. Leopold Hoenig. Order from the author, 453-C FDR Drive, Apt. C-1504, New York, NY 10002-5901. Includes 90 pages of genealogical charts, biographical and autobiographical data, plus historical background for Falkenau (today Sokolov) where some 50 Jewish families lived during the first half of the 20th century.

News Items from Austria

St. Poelten. Outside of Vienna, housed in a former synagogue, is the Institute for Jewish History in St. Poelten, established in 1988. It publishes a journal, *Studien zur Geschichte der Juden in Oesterreich* [Studies on the History of Jews in Austria] and has definite plans for a four-volume edition on Vienna's Jewish community, beginning with Vol.4, due soon, which covers the period since 1945.

"We have, strictly speaking, no archive, merely several databases for Jews in St. Poelten and its environs, also Vienna Jews buried in the Waehringer cemetery between 1784-1874. We also have about 50 [unpublished] memoirs of variable length of former Austrian Jews. We do not have a Web site, and our library is small, open from 9 am to 4 pm."

Institut für Geschichte der Juden in Österreich, Dr. Karl Renner-Promenade 22, A-3100 St. Pölten, Austria
E-Mail: <injoest@magnet.at>, Tel.: +43 2742 77 171 13, Fax: +43 2742 77 171 15

Austrian Military Data. During World War I the Austrian Empire of course was allied with Germany, and the participation has been recorded: ***Jews in the Armed Forces of Austria, 1788-1918***. The book costs ATS 160 including shipping (about $16) and it is in both English and German. Send a fax to the Austrian Jewish Museum (43-02682-651454) and give your Visa card number and expiration date.

– Daniel Leeson

Osterreichisches Juedisches Museum,
A-7001 Eisenstadt, Unterbergstrasse 6, POB 67,
Austria, E-mail: <info@oejudmus.or.at>
Web site: <http://www.oejudmus.or.at/oejudmus/>

Jews in the Habsburg Forces. Erwin A. Schmidl. Studia Judaica Austriaca XI. 1989.

Disclosure: I have not read this monograph (which may be an earlier version of the preceding entry) but I did see the exhibit on ***Jewish Soldiers under the Double Eagle***, curated by Erwin A. Schmidl. Here are some notes from the display at the B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum in Washington, DC in [about] 1995.

Austria was the first European country to conscript Jews as soldiers, beginning in 1788. By 1789, they could volunteer, and by the Napoleonic era there were about 35,000, including, since 1808, some officers. Participation varied over the decades, but in 1902 Jews were at 3.9 percent (while the overall percentage of Jews in the population was about 4.5 percent.) During WW I there were 300,000 in the Austro-Hungarian army, including two sons of Sigmund Freud, reserve lieutenants Ernst and Martin.

Not surprisingly, I noted Maximilian von Arnstein (not a relative), a first lieutenant in the 4th Hussar Regiment. He died in action in 1813 near Colmar. Seven Jewish officers became generals in the Habsburg armies, not counting those who were baptized like Samu (Samuel) Baron Hazai, Hungarian minister of defense. Thanks to a granddaughter in Tel Aviv, the exhibit included a letter "ennobling" Colonel Moritz Friedmann, who was rewarded and became von Friedmann. His son, Captain Sigmund von Friedman was a career officer in the artillery in WWI, and later headed the League of Jewish War Veterans before he emigrated to Palestine. There he was decorated for his service in the Hagganah intelligence service.

An estimated 10,000 Jews from Austria served in the Allied forces during World War II.

– George E. Arnstein

Seizure of Jewish Property in Austria. In 1938, after Anschluss, all Austrian Jews were required to report any financial holdings valued at over RM 5,000. The lists thus created were then used to seize these assets. In 1993, in *Recht als Unrecht* (Law as Injustice), edited by Christian Kucsera and Hubert Steiner, the Austrian Staatsarchiv published an alphabetical list of about 50,000 Austrian Jewish residents who submitted statements. The list gives date of birth for each person as well as a file number, presumably containing the submission. It is not known whether the Staatsarchiv is prepared to give copies of these submissions to family members.

Claims in Austria have recently become a major political/legal issue, (see August 24, 1998 issue of

Profil) and this list could become the basis of claims against current holders of seized property. Also see the article by Gregg Rickman in the summer 1998 issue of Avotaynu.

Since this book is not widely available, persons seeking to determine whether family members were listed may write to me at 3002 Ordway Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008.

– *Peter Landé*

France: New Association

GenAmi is a new French association, which has joined the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, headed by Karen Franklin. GenAmi has its own Web site (<http://www.sgip.fr/rdegroot/genami>), which features details about the association, data dealing with Alsatian ancestry, and has links to francophone genealogical Web sites, and to French white and yellow phone pages. President of GenAmi is Micheline Gutmann.

Search Bureau for Missing Persons

[Posted on JewishGen, Mon, 17 Aug 1998]

Dear JewishGenners: We are faced with a very serious problem. Despite previous assurances that the Search Bureau for Missing Persons in Jerusalem would continue in operation, when I met with Batya Unterschatz in her office at the Jewish Agency on July 12, she informed me that the future of the Search Bureau is again in jeopardy. Despite this being a one-woman office with a very low budget, there is definite danger that it will be cut. Countless family members have been reunited as a result of Batya's efforts. And at a time when Jewish genealogical research is making monumental strides and is assuming an increasingly important role in the Jewish world – when interest is so high, and so many are poised to use her services – the loss of this office would be a major calamity, affecting multitudes present and future. I am sure that everyone understands the need to make every effort to prevent the loss of this valuable resource. We need now to inform the powers that be, the Jewish Agency, of the magnitude of our interest in, and the considerable importance of the Search Bureau to the international Jewish community. Faxes and letters sent now can express our appreciation of and support for this invaluable service. To this end, please send your communications to: Mr. Avraham Burg, Chairman of the Jewish Agency. *Letters:* Mr. Avraham Burg, Jewish Agency Rm. 208, 48 King George Street, POB 92, Jerusalem, Israel *Fax:* 011-972-2-625-2352.Please consider the following: A few letters and/or faxes can be easily discounted. A massive international response in support of the Search Bureau for Missing Persons will be taken very seriously. Please help to get the word out.

– *Barbara Siegel* <bsiegel@netmedia.net.il>

Letter from the Editor

Last July, the executive director of the Leo Baeck Institute sent out a fund-raising letter, which appears below, in its entirety. It appears here as an appeal for support, and also because it is an excellent summary of what the Institute offers to researchers, and why it is a valuable resource for genealogy.

The German-born immigrants to the United States, the refugees from the menace of the Third Reich, are reaching an age where they are becoming fewer and fewer. Fortunately, many of them have made provision for their documents and their memorabilia to be donated to LBI, so much so that the staff is having trouble keeping up with cataloguing and indexing. Mrs. Strauss' letter is a reminder that genealogists can and should use LBI both as a resource and as a depository.

The letter also is an excuse to acknowledge the welcome affiliation of Stammbaum with LBI. While our publication is self-supporting financially, it also benefits from the good name as well as the support of LBI, a relationship that has been fruitful. Stammbaum is entirely the work of unpaid volunteers. Bill Firestone, who served as the founding editor, continues to maintain the database of subscribers and generates the mailing labels. Karen Franklin, because she works one day a week at LBI, is pivotal in providing coordination and forwarding articles, notices and suggestions. (Not incidentally she also now serves as the president of the International

Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.) All of the members of the Advisory Committee, listed on page 2, contribute ideas, read page proofs, and have been available for advice and consultation to me, and to each other. And our readers have been helpful in providing articles, news items, corrections and suggestions. To all of them I want to extend my personal thanks for making my job as editor a lot more interesting and easier.

Letter from Carol Kahn Strauss
[originally intended for members of LBI]

If you follow the news, you know how many of the headlines in the past few months are directly related to the history of German-Jewry:

- The debate over who owns artwork taken by the Nazis and subsequently sold to museums and dealers.
- The debate over gold and other deposits made by Jews into Swiss banks and never returned.
- The debate over claims filed by Holocaust survivors but never honored by insurance companies.

These are just some of the front-page stories that have been researched at the Leo Baeck Institute.

As the foremost repository for documentation on Central European Jewry before the war, the Institute has been able to provide researchers with material that is simply unavailable elsewhere: art auction records; gallery catalogues; inventories of family art collections; statistical data relevant to insurance claims; records of original policyholders; family ledgers listing accounts and assets; and much more. In addition to thousands of first-hand reports in letters and diaries given to us by survivors, the Institute has hundreds of newspapers, journals and periodicals with contemporaneous accounts of events in the 1930s and 40s.

These resources are invaluable. At a time when so many official documents no longer exist (whether lost, confiscated or deliberately destroyed), the holdings at the LBI become critical. Under the best of circumstances, it is difficult to establish provenance or resolve disputed claims; the task becomes more manageable with access to authentic information. Much of this information exists only in the archives of the Leo Baeck Institute.

Recent users of our collections have included officials of the U.S. State Department; aides of United States Senators; researchers from the National Jewish Museum in Washington and the Ronald Lauder Commission on Lost Art; representatives of major European insurance companies and of Swiss banking commissions. A journalist working on a family history of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was able to find genealogical references to her German-speaking Czech ancestors, including a reference to an 1838 newspaper article. That newspaper was also in the Institute's archives.

The Institute is able to provide all of these researchers with rare documentation of real life, long ago. Unlike oral history archives that are filled with poignant stories recollected in tranquillity, the holdings in the Institute's library and archives recapture the past with the authenticity that can only come from the hard evidence of these original sources.

Some of the history and culture preserved here is little used and scarce remembered, of interest, perhaps, to one in a million academics. But there are literally hundreds of collections that are in constant demand (Mendelssohn, Heine, Kafka, Herzl), a great many that are popular according to current trends (feminist history, genealogy, gender studies), and a great many that deal with the major themes of 20th-century historical analysis (The Weimar Republic, The Third Reich, Kristallnacht). In addition, global migrations and ethnic conflicts in many parts of the world have created a new interest in the treatment of minorities in a variety of political environments. Historians are well aware that German Jews were never more than one percent of Germany's population. When looking at the role of minorities, therefore, the experience documented at the LBI can offer researchers striking insights into current developments.

There is no such thing, then, as history that is out-of-date. Depending on the moment there is always some aspect of the past that informs the present. Relevance is relative.

It is vital, therefore, that the Leo Baeck Institute continue its unique mission of cataloging our historical and cultural heritage. No one else does what we do. No other Institute began collecting this material as early as the LBI did, no other organization has holdings as comprehensive as ours. This is a living legacy that could not be created today.

Future generations will be forever grateful to the founders of the Institute for their vision and foresight. Current users, whose numbers increase from year to year, are simply grateful that so many of the issues that have surfaced in the recent past can be researched in our archives.

We need your help to meet this ever-growing demand. Membership dues and occasional contributions are not enough. We urge you to be as generous as you can be.

- A gift of $10,000 will enable the Institute to microfilm and thus preserve for generations to come at least four important collections (for example: papers and manuscripts of writers, musicians and poets; professionals in law and medicine; genealogical collections, historical periodicals)
- A gift of $5,000 will fund an exhibit and brochure on one special aspect of our history (The Shanghai Experience; Austrian Emigrés to the U.S.; Franz Kafka and the Prague Circle)
- A gift of $1,000 will allow at least 100 additional photos to be digitized.
- A gift of any amount will enable students and historians to continue to access all of the Institute's resources, free of charge.

The Institute does not raise money by reminding you of the generations that did not live to tell their own stories. Instead, we provide you and the next generations with the assurance that as long as there is an LBI, their stories – our history – will live on.

With sincere thanks,
Carol Kahn Strauss
Executive Director

Search Notices

Searching: FLESHEIMER/FLESHEIM. Babette "Strauss"? "Coleman"? Flesheim (my great-great grandmother) died 16 April 1892 aged 72. Buried at Willett St. Cemetery with Samuel Flesheimer, (whom she married October 1845 in Cleveland), he died aged 36. years (no date on tombstone), Sarah Flesheim, sister 1853-1897, Rebecca Flesheim Hellman (wife of Julius Hellman) died 9 October 1893 aged 62. They originated in Germany but where? Bavaria? I am told the name indicates southern Germany. Babette's children: Joseph (Menomonee, Mich.), Leah married Daniel Wises (my great grandfather), Isaac and Sarah all of Cleveland, Ohio. Leah's children: Rebecca b. 11 June 1871 Cleveland, Samuel Daniel b. 28 Nov 1873, Cleveland, OH, d. 27 Mar 1953 NY, Max b 29 Sept 1875, Jacob Bellany b. 17 Aug 1879 d. 14 Dec 1940, Victor Laurance b. 10 Jul 1890 d 24 Aug 1968 (all born Cleveland). Wendy Lang, 1231 Kipling Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90041. (213) 257-0984
e-mail: <wlang@pacbell.net.xz>

Find the missing link. RD Research: Genealogical Research and Consultations; Tracing lost relations. Specializing in Holocaust Research in Archives in Israel. Research, translations & Interviews
Rose Lerer Cohen, P.O.B. 11456, Jerusalem 91114
Fax: 972-2-5639525 <rdr@shani.net Israel>
Member, Association of Professional Genealogists

Constam/Kohnstamm Family History. For a history project of this family seek contact with descendants of

- Aaron & Rosa Constam (or Kohnstamm), to US from Germany mid-19th century
- Members of Constam family, Baltimore, MD
- Descendants of Maurice Schwab & Laura nee Constam
- Abraham Frank & Fanny nee Constam

Please write to C. T. Marx, 76 Barn Hill, Wembley Park, Middlesex HA9 9LQ, UK. Phone/Fax: +44 181 904 7616

Articles and news items for Stammbaum Issue 15 should be submitted by March 15, 1999 to Karen Franklin, Leo Baeck Institute, 129 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021. Submit diskette with printout, preferably in Word Perfect, or via e-mail to: <khsmus@aol.com>

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